This Old House

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50 easy upgrades under $100

> p. 122

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GET THIS LOOK FOR LESS

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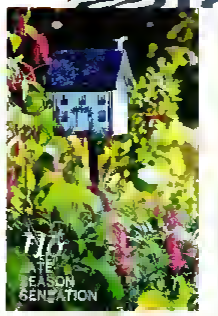

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Styling by ANNA MOLVIK

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) WENDELL T. WEBBER; CHRISTIAAN BLOK; TED MORRISON; SUSAN TEARE; J.M. WESTPHALEN

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2 U-factor The U-factor indicates the rate of heat loss in a window or door. The lower the U-factor, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating properties.

3 Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: SHGC measures how well a window's glazing blocks heat caused by sunlight. The lower the number, the less heat gets in. A score of 0.40 or less is recommended in warmer climates.

4 Visible Transmittance VT is a measure of how much total light is transmitted through the window. Windows glazed with a VT of 0.60 or more look clear. Windows with lower VT scores limit glare but can slightly darken rooms.

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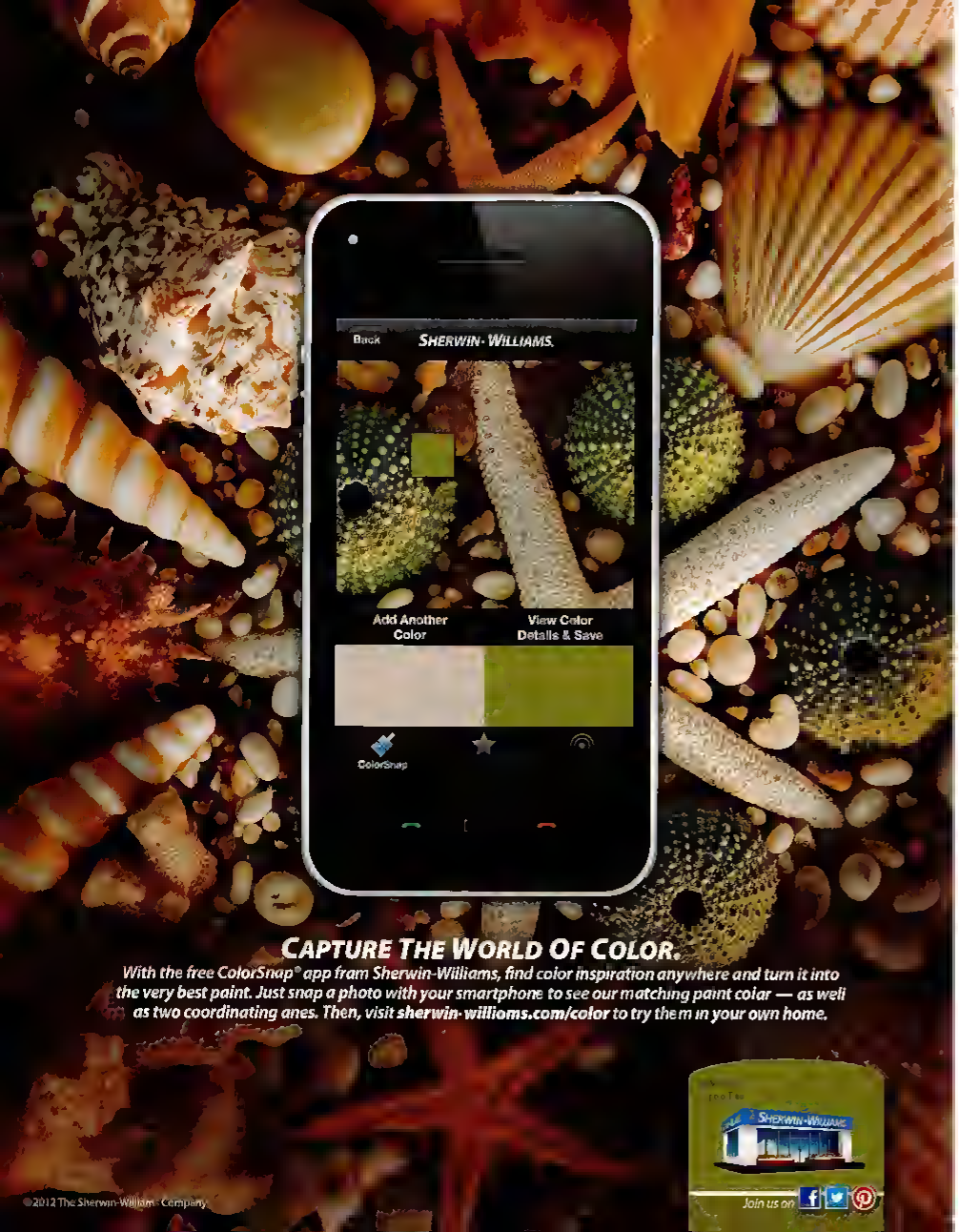
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True DIY grit

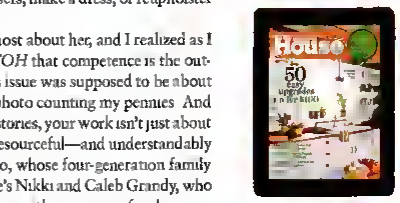
My mother called early Sunday morning to tell me Grandma had passed away. It wasn't unexpected—we'd all seen her one last time the day before—but it was sad nonetheless.

If you've read Letter From This Old House for a while, you may recall a few stories about Olive. About how, well into her white-haired 80s, she would scramble out onto her roof and edge down to the gutter to scoop out leaves. Or how at age 90 she sat on the tailgate of a pickup truck corralling boulders and rolling them off so that my brother and I could use them to outline a gravel walkway.

Turns out, moving a thousand pounds of rock was no big deal for a woman who raised five children in a time before things like dishwashers and disposable diapers and all the other conveniences we so take for granted. She was tough, Olive was. In her 50s she underwent a 14-hour brain surgery to correct an aneurysm, which she shrugged off to take up golf and another four decades of life. She was independent and uncomplaining, too, and she knew stuff. When I wanted to identify a plant in the yard, know how long to cook a roast, or find out what to use to remove a stain, I called her. Up in her sewing room, she could take in a pair of trousers, make a dress, or reupholster furniture. What she was, was competent.

I think that's one of the qualities I admired most about her, and I realized as I looked at the reader remodels in this month's *TOH* that competence is the outstanding quality so many of you have, too. This issue was supposed to be about saving money, which is why you see me in the photo counting my pennies. And though budget-mindedness is apparent in many stories, your work isn't just about the money. What stands out most to me is how resourceful—and understandably proud of that—you all are. There's Jessica Bruno, whose four-generation family room, on page 106, keeps everyone happy. There's Nikki and Caleb Grandy, who built their three little boys wall-to-wall bunk beds—with a spare one for sleepover guests (page 108). And there's Mackst and Cody Warner, whose kitchen is our cover subject. They not only ripped out the cabinets and installed the shelves but also raised the chickens whose eggs you see on the countertop.

I don't know about you, but in a world in which, more and more, we experience things by eyeballing an LCD screen in a dark room instead of with our hands in the sun, I think such accomplishments are rare and all the more impressive. It gives me hope, somehow. I'd like to think it's the way Olive would have done things, too.



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scott@thisoldhouse.com

PHOTO: MICHAEL LEWIS

Get bonus content on the TOH tablet!

Print subscribers can download this month's tablet edition for free and access exclusive content, including more photos, ideas, and video. Get extras like 10 favorite ideas from editors for "Fifty Nifty Fix-Ups for Less Than $100" (page 122), additional images of the fall garden in "Late-Season Sensation" (page 116), seasonal tips from the Ask This Old House crew (page 129), and a video tour of the Federal-style home featured in Save This Old House (page 146). It's fast, easy, and free for the iPad, Kindle Fire, and Nook Color, and you won't find it anywhere else.

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This year's Great TOH Giveaway (August 2012) not only more than doubled last year's total prize value but also broke all previous records for entries! We share one reader's thanks for the diversion it gave her from remodeling while expecting a baby. Other readers offer good tips and information, and a couple shows off their snappy kitchen face-lift inspired by a page from May's color-themed issue

There's always next year!
I just wanted to say thank you for running your annual Great TOH Giveaway [August 2012]. As a young DIY homeowner, I've learned a lot by reading your publication and watching your shows, and I eagerly await each month's issue. And as someone in the midst of a major remodel while suffering through the last few weeks of a pregnancy (this all seemed like a good idea a few months ago), the daily entering of the sweepstakes was a nice diversion and a bit of a countdown for me! Like most readers, I may not win, but I enjoy the challenge!

—PAMELA NISEVICH BEDE, BY E-MAIL

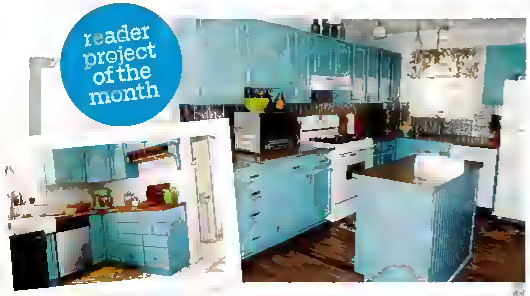
Bolting a hammock
Re the "Hang a Hammock" tip in Checklist [August 2012]: I am a forester, so I am always careful about putting metal into a tree. If you use a metal screw eye, as suggested, you should be aware of a few things. Bark can be thick, so make sure the screw eye that you install penetrates at least 1 inch into the wood. I also suggest twisting the eyebolts out a turn or two every year as needed. A grown-over bolt is useless and a hazard for anyone pruning or removing the tree.

—MEREDITH CHILDS, BY E-MAIL

Virginia-creeper caution
"Decorating Your Garden" [August 2012] provided many wonderful ideas for incorporating repurposed items into a garden. I can see several of the ideas working well in my backyard. The only issue that I had was the use of Virginia creeper as a vine. To those who are highly allergic to any type of poisonous vine, such as poison ivy, Virginia creeper can potentially create as severe a reaction. I must have a shot to counteract the response when I come in contact with any poisonous vine, including Virginia creeper. It is also extremely prolific and must be aggressively contained to prevent other plants and trees from being choked out and killed.

—DOREEN TUELL, PARKERSBURG, W.VA.

Correction
→ In "All About Ceramic Subway Tile" (August 2012), the source given for the Savoy tile in White Gloss on page 95 should have been crossvilleinc.com.



Colorful cook space

ERIN AND DAVID ORTIZ, MAHOMET, ILL.

Thank you for "The Power of Color" [May 2012]. We'd been planning on painting our cabinets white but fell in love with the kitchen on page 79. One weekend later, we had updated cabinets that add a pop of color to our cottage-style house. It wasn't nearly as daunting as we thought, and the results were fantastic.

Get cabinet-painting how-to at **thisoldhouse.com/oct2012**

how to reach us

The editors: E-mail TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com or write to This Old House magazine, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. → Include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

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VICTOR CRUZ LIKES
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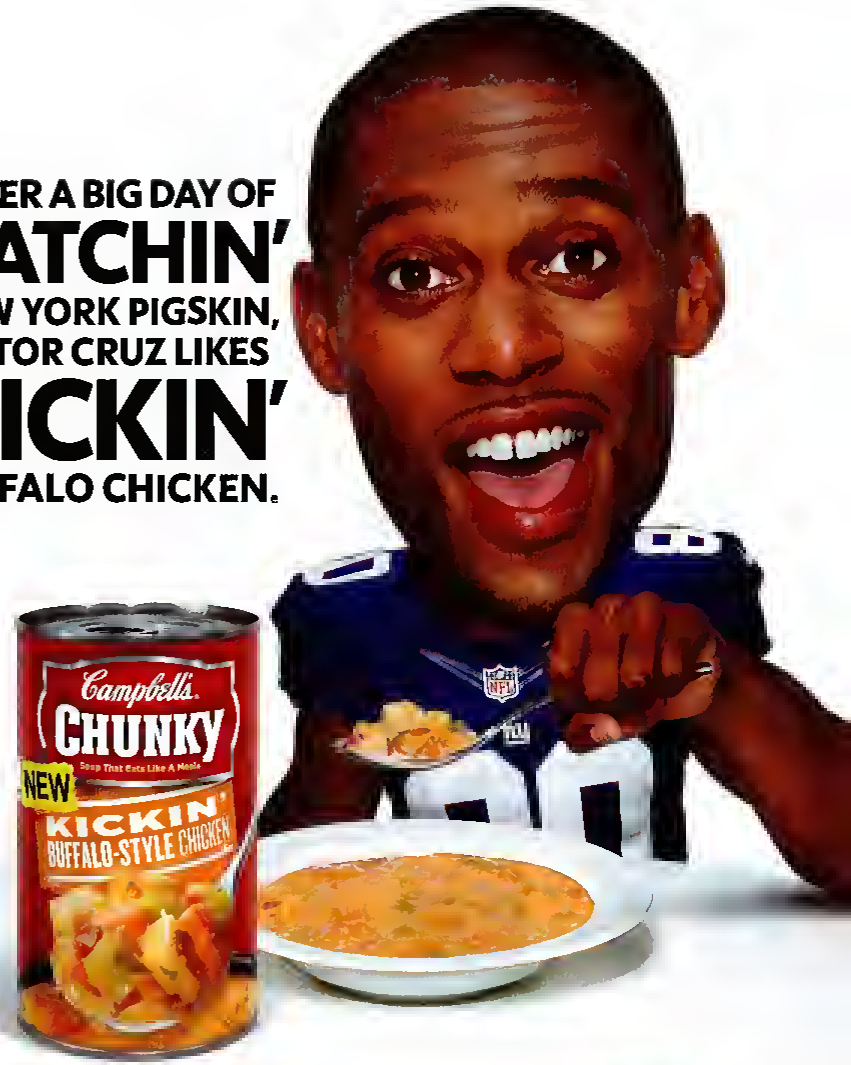

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checklist {October 2012}

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

☐ Test your house's downspouts

You know to clear gutters of autumn's fallen leaves, but you should also check downspouts, which can clog with debris. Run water from a hose through the top; if it barely trickles out of the spout, remove the blockage by boosting the water pressure with a sprayer attachment or inserting a pipe snake from below.

☐ What's on your checklist?

"I'm going to have an arborist assess my tree's health while it still has leaves so that I can plan a tree house for my kids in spring."

—Brett Kush, Canton, Ohio

E-mail us your ideas at checklist@thisoldhouse.com.

☑ Compost pumpkin leftovers

Don't toss the pulp and flesh you carve out—put them into the compost pile. Layer with an equal amount of straw, grass clippings, or fallen leaves. (If you don't toast the seeds for snacking, run them through the blender so that your pile doesn't become a pumpkin patch.) Post-Halloween, add the rest of your jack-o'-lantern after removing any melted candle wax and cutting the flesh into 1- to 2-inch chunks.

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): IAN SPANIER; LAWRENCE LAWRY/GETTY IMAGES; ALEX HAYDEN; TAX /GETTY IMAGES; ILLUSTRATION: MARK SCHELLER FOR ARNOLD DESIGN MANAGEMENT

TOH TIP

☐ Replace damaged asphalt roof shingles

Shingles are more supple and easier to install when they're warm and dry, so use fall's last nice days to replace ones that are torn, cracked, or missing. Use a pry bar to pull up old nails, slide out an offender, and insert a new shingle, securing it near its top with rust-resistant roofing nails.

☐ Clear cobwebs from nooks and crannies

Keep your house from unintentionally looking haunted by banishing abandoned spider hangouts. To remove sticky strands from high-up spots your vacuum won't reach, cover a broom with a rag and blot, don't sweep, them away. On chandeliers, use a microfiber duster in a twirling motion.

☐ Get chimneys inspected and cleaned

That goes for wood-burning and gas fireplaces. The flues of the latter can become cracked or blocked, leading to dangerous carbon monoxide leaks or buildup. For either type, hire a sweep who's trained to perform an inspection to ensure your chimney is unobstructed and free of deterioration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 138

I'm breathing batter, so now, I can be part of the picture.

COPD? Ask your doctor about breathing better with ADVAIR.‡

ADVAIR helps improve your lung function so you breathe better. ***Results may vary.*** *Unlike most chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) medications, ADVAIR contains both an anti-inflammatory† and a long-acting bronchodilator working together to help improve your lung function. ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is approved for adults with COPD, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ADVAIR DISKUS is not for, and should not be used to treat, sudden, severe symptoms of COPD. ADVAIR won't replace a rescue inhaler. You should only take 1 inhalation of ADVAIR twice a day. Higher doses will not provide additional benefits. Ask your doctor about ADVAIR.*

ADVAIR 250/50

ADVAIR DISKUS® 250/50

(fluticasone propionate 250 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

Important Safety Information about ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50

- Do not use ADVAIR to treat sudden, severe symptoms of asthma or COPD. Always have a rescue inhaler medicine with you to treat sudden symptoms.
- Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS if you have severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.
- **Do not use ADVAIR more often than prescribed. Do not take ADVAIR with other medicines that contain long-acting beta$_2$-agonists for any reason.** Tell your doctor about medicines you take and about all of your medical conditions.
- **ADVAIR DISKUS can cause serious side effects, including:**
  - **serious allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction: rash; hives; swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue; breathing problems.
  - **sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine.**
  - **effects on heart:** increased blood pressure; a fast and irregular heartbeat; chest pain.
  - **effects on nervous system:** tremor; nervousness.
  - **reduced adrenal function (may result in loss of energy).**
  - **changes in blood (sugar, potassium, certain types of white blood cells).**
  - **weakened immune system and a higher chance of infections.** You should avoid exposure to chickenpox and measles, and, if exposed, consult your healthcare provider without delay. Worsening of existing tuberculosis; fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections; or ocular herpes simplex may occur.
  - **lower bone mineral density.** This may be a problem for people who already have a higher chance of low bone density (osteoporosis).
  - **eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts.** You should have regular eye exams while using ADVAIR.
  - **pneumonia.** People with COPD have a higher chance of getting pneumonia. ADVAIR may increase the chance of getting pneumonia. Call your doctor if you notice any of the following symptoms: increase in mucus (sputum) production; change in mucus color; fever; chills; increased cough; increased breathing problems.
- **Common side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 for COPD include:** thrush in the mouth and throat, throat irritation, hoarseness and voice changes, viral respiratory infections, headache, muscle and bone pain.

*Measured by a breathing test in people taking ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50, compared with people taking either fluticasone propionate 250 mcg or salmeterol 50 mcg. Your results may vary.
†It is not known how anti-inflammatories work in COPD.
‡Restrictions apply. See ADVAIRCOPD.com for eligibility rules.

Please see Brief Summary of Important Safety Information about ADVAIR DISKUS on adjacent page.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

To get your first full prescription free and to save on refills,‡ visit ADVAIRCOPD.com or call 1-877-200-4673.

GSK for you — If you don't have prescription coverage and can't afford your medicines, visit GSKforYou.com or call 1-866-GSK-FOR-U (1-866-475-3678)

GlaxoSmithKline

ADVAIR DISKUS®
(fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder)

BRIEF SUMMARY

This summary does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. See full Prescribing Information for complete product information.

What is the most important information I should know about ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR DISKUS can cause serious side effects, including:

1. People with asthma who take long-acting beta$_2$-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as salmeterol (one of the medicines in ADVAIR DISKUS) have an increased risk of death from asthma problems. It is not known whether fluticasone propionate (the other medicine in ADVAIR DISKUS) reduces the risk of death from asthma problems seen with salmeterol.
   - **Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ADVAIR DISKUS.** You may need different treatment.
   - **Get emergency medical care if:**
     - breathing problems worsen quickly and
     - you use your rescue inhaler medicine, but it does not relieve your breathing problems
2. ADVAIR DISKUS should be used only if your healthcare provider decides that your asthma is not well controlled with a long-term asthma control medicine, such as inhaled corticosteroids.
3. When your asthma is well controlled, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ADVAIR DISKUS. Your healthcare provider will decide if you can stop ADVAIR DISKUS without loss of asthma control. Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different asthma control medicine for you, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.
4. Children and adolescents who take LABA medicines may have an increased risk of being hospitalized for asthma problems.

What is ADVAIR DISKUS?

- ADVAIR DISKUS combines an inhaled corticosteroid medicine, fluticasone propionate (the same medicine found in FLOVENT®), and a LABA medicine, salmeterol (the same medicine found in SEREVENT®).
  - Inhaled corticosteroids help to decrease inflammation in the lungs. Inflammation in the lungs can lead to asthma symptoms.
  - LABA medicines are used in people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). LABA medicines help the muscles around the airways in your lungs stay relaxed to prevent symptoms such as wheezing and shortness of breath. These symptoms can happen when the muscles around the airways tighten. This makes it hard to breathe. In severe cases, wheezing can stop your breathing and cause death if not treated right away.
- ADVAIR DISKUS is used for asthma and COPD as follows:

Asthma

ADVAIR DISKUS is used to control symptoms of asthma and to prevent symptoms such as wheezing in adults and children aged 4 years and older.

ADVAIR DISKUS contains salmeterol (the same medicine found in SEREVENT). LABA medicines, such as salmeterol, increase the risk of death from asthma problems.

ADVAIR DISKUS is not for adults and children with asthma who are well controlled with an asthma control medicine, such as a low to medium dose of an inhaled corticosteroid medicine.

COPD

COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is used long-term, 2 times each day to help improve lung function for better breathing in adults with COPD. ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 has been shown to decrease the number of flare-ups and worsening of COPD symptoms (exacerbations).

Who should not use ADVAIR DISKUS?

Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS:

- to treat sudden-severe symptoms of asthma or COPD
- if you have a severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using ADVAIR DISKUS?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your health conditions, including if you:

- **have heart problems**
- **have high blood pressure**
- **have seizures**
- **have thyroid problems**
- **have diabetes**
- **have liver problems**
- **have osteoporosis**
- **have an immune system problem**
- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if ADVAIR DISKUS may harm your unborn baby.
- **are breastfeeding.** It is not known if ADVAIR DISKUS passes into your milk and if it can harm your baby.
- **are allergic to any of the ingredients in ADVAIR DISKUS, any other medicines, or food products**
- **are exposed to chickenpox or measles**

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. ADVAIR DISKUS and certain other medicines may interact with each other. This may cause serious side effects. Especially, tell your healthcare provider if you take ritonavir. The anti-HIV medicines NORVIR® (ritonavir capsules) Soft Gelatin, NORVIR (ritonavir oral solution) and KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir) Tablets contain ritonavir.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

How do I use ADVAIR DISKUS?

Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS unless your healthcare provider has taught you and you understand everything. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions.

- Children should use ADVAIR DISKUS with an adult's help, as instructed by the child's healthcare provider.
- Use ADVAIR DISKUS exactly as prescribed. **Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS more often than prescribed.** ADVAIR DISKUS comes in 3 strengths. Your healthcare provider has prescribed the one that is best for your condition.
- The usual dosage of ADVAIR DISKUS is 1 inhalation 2 times each day (morning and evening). The 2 doses should be about 12 hours apart. Rinse your mouth with water after using ADVAIR DISKUS.
- If you take more ADVAIR DISKUS than your doctor has prescribed, get medical help right away if you have any unusual symptoms such as worsening shortness of breath, chest pain, increased heart rate, or shakiness.
- If you miss a dose of ADVAIR DISKUS, just skip that dose. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.
- Do not use a spacer device with ADVAIR DISKUS.
- Do not breathe into ADVAIR DISKUS.
- **While you are using ADVAIR DISKUS 2 times each day, do not use other medicines that contain a LABA for any reason.** Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if any of your other medicines are LABA medicines.
- Do not stop using ADVAIR DISKUS or other asthma medicines unless told to do so by your healthcare provider because your symptoms might get worse. Your healthcare provider will change your medicines as needed.
- ADVAIR DISKUS does not relieve sudden symptoms. Always have a rescue inhaler medicine with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have an inhaled short-acting bronchodilator, call your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.

Call your healthcare provider or get medical care right away if:

- your breathing problems worsen with ADVAIR DISKUS
- you need to use your rescue inhaler medicine more often than usual
- your rescue inhaler medicine does not work as well for you at relieving symptoms
- you need to use 4 or more inhalations of your rescue inhaler medicine for 2 or more days in a row
- you use 1 whole canister of your rescue inhaler medicine in 8 weeks' time
- your peak flow meter results decrease. Your healthcare provider will tell you the numbers that are right for you
- you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ADVAIR DISKUS regularly for 1 week

What are the possible side effects with ADVAIR DISKUS?

- ADVAIR DISKUS can cause serious side effects, including:
- See "What is the most important information I should know about ADVAIR DISKUS?"
- **serious allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
  - rash
  - hives
  - swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue
  - breathing problems
- **sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine**
- **effects on heart:**
  - increased blood pressure
  - a fast and irregular heartbeat
  - chest pain
- **effects on nervous system:**
  - tremor
  - nervousness
- **reduced adrenal function (may result in loss of energy)**
- **changes in blood (sugar, potassium, certain types of white blood cells)**
- **weakened immune system and a higher chance of infections**
- **lower bone mineral density.** This may be a problem for people who already have a higher chance of low bone density (osteoporosis).
- **eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts.** You should have regular eye exams while using ADVAIR DISKUS.
- **slowed growth in children.** A child's growth should be checked often.
- **pneumonia.** People with COPD have a higher chance of getting pneumonia. ADVAIR DISKUS may increase the chance of getting pneumonia. Call your healthcare provider if you notice any of the following symptoms:
  - increase in mucus (sputum) production
  - change in mucus color
  - fever
  - chills
  - increased cough
  - increased breathing problems

Common side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS include:

Asthma:
- upper respiratory tract infection
- throat irritation
- hoarseness and voice changes
- thrush in the mouth and throat
- bronchitis
- cough
- headache
- nausea and vomiting

COPD:
- thrush in the mouth and throat
- throat irritation
- hoarseness and voice changes
- viral respiratory infections
- headache
- muscle and bone pain

In children with asthma, infections in the ear, nose, and throat are common.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the side effects with ADVAIR DISKUS. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for additional information about ADVAIR DISKUS. You can also contact the company that makes ADVAIR DISKUS (toll free) at 1-888-825-5249 or at www.advair.com.

GlaxoSmithKline
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
ADD:7MG January 2011

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home solutions

Edited by Amy Roberts

Fright-night lights

Welcome trick-or-treaters by candlelight with festive punched-out luminaries made from leftover food cans. Raid the recycling bin for a variety of vessels in different shapes and sizes, those that housed tomatoes, soups, or vegetables are all fair game. Remove the labels, and deodorize the insides by wiping with a damp sponge dipped in baking soda. Steer clear of containers that once held flammable materials, and don't bother with the fuss of cleaning out old paint cans—empty ones can be found cheaply at a crafts store. To learn how we banged them out, turn the page.

PHOTO: TINA RUPP; STYLING: HELEN QUINN FOR PAT BATES AND ASSOCIATES

HOW-TO:

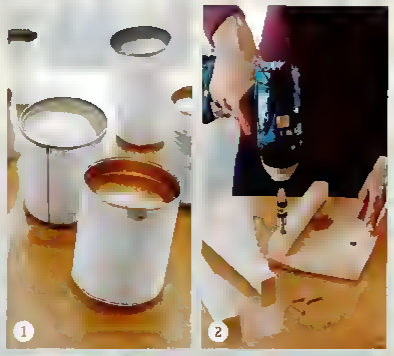
Tin-can lanterns

1 Fill cans with water and freeze them. Why? You'll make holes with a hammer and an awl or a chisel, and if you just start pounding away, you'll have a mangled mess. The plug of ice firms the can for punching.

2 Build a jig. It will hold cans steady while you work. Screw scrap 1×1s to the long sides of a board (we used a 1×6).

3 Punch out the designs. Draw templates, thinking of them as reverse stencils; lines are the negative space through which the light will shine. Clamp a frozen can to the jig, and use a marker to trace on the image. With a hammer and an awl (for dotted lines) or a chisel (for wider slits), puncture the metal. When you're done, run cans under hot water, dump out the ice, and clean off remaining ink.

4 Add handles and candles. Snip a length of 18- to 21-gauge wire and attach it to the can through two holes punched on opposite sides near the rim. Place a tea light at the bottom.



Eerie mirror

A haunting "reflection" to spook guests turns any entry into a spot that the Addams Family would approve of. Start with an ornate mirror and remove the back. Find a creepy vintage photo. Ours is from the Library of Congress (loc.gov/pictures). To remove some (but not all) of the mirror's paint and reflective coating, don latex gloves and lightly rub the back with fine-grade steel wool, plus acetone if needed (test first). Check your progress by placing the image behind the glass. Tape it in place when it looks sufficiently sinister.

Ax-wielding apparition

Skip the wimpy jack-o'-lantern and scare the living Skittles out of trick-or-treaters with a 3-D ghost made from barely-there chicken wire. Gather a 3-by-25-foot roll of wire (about $20), work gloves, wire snips, needle-nose pliers, and a wig form or head-size vase for shaping the noggin. Mold the body by hand, cutting darts and overlapping flaps as needed. For the how-to, visit thisoldhouse.com/oct2012.

get more info

Find lists of tools and materials, plus detailed instructions for each project at **thisoldhouse.com/oct2012**

PHOTOS: (TIN CAN LANTERNS) TINA RUPP; (TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM) DAN ARNAUD. STYLING: (TIN CAN LANTERNS) SHILEH QUINN FOR JAY BATES AND ASSOCIATES; (TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM) MONIQUE LEES

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Old socks

Whether they're past their prime or just stray singles, don't just kick 'em to the curb. Give them new legs with these household solutions.

1 Ease first aid.
Slip an ice pack into a sock to temper the chill while soothing sore muscles or bruises.

2 Secure mobile devices.
To enjoy tunes while raking fall leaves, create an armband pocket for your MP3 player. Cut off the leg of a tube sock, slide it onto your arm, then double the material up around your biceps. Tuck the player between the elastic layers.

3 ↑ Rescue lost hardware.
Slide a sock over the end of a vacuum's hose, secure with a rubber band, and use the vac's suction to pick up dropped screws, nuts, or nails.

4 ↑ Stop drafts.
Line doorjambs and windowsills with rice-filled socks to keep the cold from entering your home and the house's heat from escaping.

5 Polish surfaces.
A sock becomes a reusable or disposable mitt for waxing furniture or shining silver, brass, or pewter.

6 Cushion your knees.
For DIY jobs that require kneeling, cut off the legs of a pair of tube socks and slide them over your pant legs. Fold the fabric over your knees once or twice for extra padding.

7 Ice-proof windshield wipers.
When frost is in the forecast, slide kneesocks over wipers to prevent crystals from clinging. Just pull off the socks and you're on your way; no scraping necessary.

8 Protect footwear.
Before tackling a dirty or messy job, pull oversize or stretched-out socks over your shoes to keep them clean.

9 Entertain Fido.
Tie a knot at each end of a tube sock and get ready for a round of tug of war.

↑ Clean up.
Wear a sock as a glove so that you can easily swab the dust away from every nook and cranny in mantels, venetian blinds, and ceiling-fan blades.

—ALLIE CUTLER

more 10 uses
Find more smart uses for leftovers at thisoldhouse.com/oct2012

PHOTOS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MICHELLE T. WEBBER; ANSWER 3: [illegible]; ANSWER 9: [illegible]

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PROJECT OF THE WEEK
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HOW TO
INSTALL UNDER-CABINET LIGHTING

Good lighting is an overlooked element in most kitchens. If it is in yours, consider installing under cabinet task lighting, which will flood your countertops with bright light and make everything from dicing vegetables to reading recipes easier.

These hidden fixtures are fairly easy to retrofit beneath upper wall cabinets, and installation should take no more than two or three hours. Just be sure to turn off the electricity to the kitchen at the main electrical panel before you begin.

You'll find a huge selection of tools to help with this or any home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For easy how-to instructions and a list of the tools and materials you'll need, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

Secret potions for tackling tricky jobs

We at This Old House may not stir bubbling cauldrons or fly on broomsticks, but we know which concoctions work like magic when it comes to making home-improvement projects easier. Here, our picks for taking the toil and trouble out of a few common tasks.—MEGAN BAKER

THE TASK Repainting baseboards, molding, and trim

THE TRICK Klean-Strip Liquid Sander degrimes and deglosses detailed woodwork without kicking up lead dust. (Added bonus: You skip the tedium of sanding.) $7 for 1 quart, homedepot.com

THE TASK Finishing raw wood

THE TRICK Features editor Amy R. Hughes uses Briwax to yield a matte patina rather than a high gloss sheen. The tinted version (in nine shades) builds up gradually, creating a living finish that darkens with each successive coat. $19 for 16 ounces, woodcraft.com

THE TASK Buffing up unpolished stone

THE TRICK Clapham's Salad Bowl Finish—typically used as a food-safe coating on unfinished wood—adds luster to honed marble and granite and boosts their resistance to water spots. Its butter-like beeswax formula is easy to apply. $20 for 8 ounces, amazon.com

THE TASK Removing rust

THE TRICK Senior editor Deborah Snoonian mixes Borax with lemon juice to form a paste, then smears a thick layer onto corroded metal. The rust wipes away with a rag after an hour or so. $12.25 for 76 ounces, amazon.com

THE TASK Sealing wrought iron

THE TRICK Renaissance Wax, developed by the British Museum, polishes and coats metals with a hard, durable petroleum-based wax seal—perfect for outdoor railings exposed to the elements. $16 for 2.25 ounces, restorationproduct.com

THE TASK Restoring grungy wood furniture

THE TRICK Editor Scott Omelianuk swears by a homemade concoction—1 part each of boiled linseed oil, turpentine, and white vinegar—to banish dirt and prevent wood from drying out. Test first in a hidden spot.

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New Projects. New Places.

Ride alongside the crew this season as we travel across the country to solve a slew of all-new home improvement problems. Catch brand new episodes featuring housecalls in Denver, Miami, Cheyenne, Boston, Chicago, and New York City, premiering this October on PBS.

For a sneak peek at what's in store, scan this tag or visit www.thisoldhouse.com/watchasktoh

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Exclusively on PBS Presented by WGBH

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The dirt on steam cleaning

With so much interest in cleaning without chemicals, steam is being touted as a greener option. The latest appliances—in stick-mop, handheld, and canister versions—let you blast many common household surfaces with a surge of vapor to loosen grime and kill germs. Here's what to know before you invest

How steam cleaners work Water is heated past the boiling point and forced out as pressurized steam through a nozzle, brush, or other attachment. The vapor loosens dirt and kills dust mites, mold, staph, and other allergens and harmful bacteria. No suction is required, since the high-heat moisture dries quickly. For heavily soiled surfaces, some manufacturers suggest steam-cleaning first, then wiping away dirt with a cloth before the moisture dries.

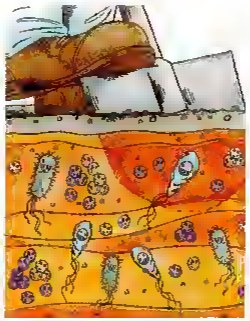
Where they can be used Steam works well on hard, impervious surfaces, such as countertops and bathroom fixtures, and floors made of vinyl, laminate, polyurethaned wood, or tile. Some models can clean upholstery, mattresses, and curtains, too.

What shouldn't be steam-cleaned Painted walls and unsealed floors, including hardwood, cork, and unglazed tile, may be damaged by the moisture. The heat from steam can also cause cold window glass to crack.

Which features are worth considering Look for a machine with a quick warm-up time; some produce steam in just 30 seconds, while others take 3 minutes or more. Handheld units provide around 10 minutes of cleaning time before needing a water refill. Larger canister versions can last up to 45 minutes but are harder to maneuver. Some machines require you to hold the stream of steam in place for up to 15 seconds to ensure proper sanitization, which can mean a long cleaning session for, say, a kitchen floor. Others take just 1 to 3 seconds. And there's also price: Stick-style mops run around $35 to $55, while canister versions cost $100 and up. —KEITH PANDOLFI

Avoid this DIYer's danger

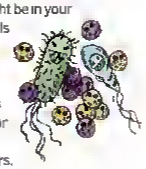
Stop sawdust from your latest woodworking project from settling in; the fine particles can collect in hidden corners and fuel a fire if they come in contact with a combustion source, such as a spark from nearby machinery. Sweep or vacuum after each session with your saw. To reduce buildup in the nooks and crannies of open shelves, mount a vinyl roller window shade on the top of the shelves and pull it down when the dust is flying. —GILLIAN BARTH



Don't let soil get you sick

While rare, the little monsters below may lurk in garden loam and can cause infections that have a variety of unpleasant symptoms—or even, in isolated cases, a visit from the Grim Reaper. To avoid transmission, take precautions as you plant bulbs or put flower beds to sleep for the season.

> **E. coli** This harmful bacteria, found in animal droppings, might be in your yard if pets or wild animals have made your plot their public restroom. It's transmitted through ingestion, so wash hands carefully (even if you wear gloves) and don't touch your face with dirty fingers.



> **Tetanus** Surprise: It doesn't hang out only on rusty nails. Tetanus (*Clostridium tetani*) can live in soil and a cut can let it right into your bloodstream. Cases have decreased almost 95 percent since the vaccine was introduced in the 1930s, which is why you should get a booster shot every decade or if you cut yourself and don't recall when you had your last inoculation.

> **Anthrax** While the chances of contracting *Bacillus anthracis* while gardening are reassuringly rare, the bacterium does exist in soil. Since infection occurs via a skin cut, wash up well, sterilizing wounds with hydrogen peroxide. —K.P. ■

PHOTO: (TOP) VIKKI BARTOS/THE HD DIGITAL STUDIO; (BOTTOM) ISTOCKPHOTO. ILLUSTRATIONS: ERWIN POTGIETER/BRAND X PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

DOES BREATHING WITH COPD WEIGH YOU DOWN? SPIRIVA CAN HELP.

SPIRIVA is the only once-daily inhaled COPD treatment that does both of the following:

- Helps relax & open airways for 24 hours
- Helps reduce COPD flare-ups

And, SPIRIVA is steroid-free.

If you have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, you know how difficult it can be to breathe. While nothing can reverse COPD, SPIRIVA relaxes your airways to help you breathe better. Talk to your doctor about lifestyle changes and SPIRIVA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Do not use Spiriva® HandiHaler® if you are allergic to tiotropium or ipratropium (e.g., Atrovent®) or any of the ingredients in SPIRIVA. If your breathing suddenly worsens, your face, throat, lips, or tongue swells, you get hives, itching or rash, stop taking SPIRIVA and seek immediate medical help.

SPIRIVA HandiHaler is not a rescue medicine and should not be used for treating sudden breathing problems.

Do not swallow SPIRIVA capsules. The contents of the capsule should only be inhaled through your mouth using the HandiHaler device.

If you have vision changes or eye pain or if you have difficulty passing urine or painful urination, stop taking SPIRIVA and call your doctor right away.

Tell your doctor if you have glaucoma, problems passing urine or an enlarged prostate, as these may worsen with SPIRIVA. Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems or are allergic to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure. Also discuss with your doctor all the medicines you take, including eye drops.

The most common side effect with SPIRIVA is dry mouth. Others include constipation and trouble passing urine. For a complete list of reported side effects, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

INDICATION

SPIRIVA HandiHaler is a prescription medicine used once each day (a maintenance medicine) to control symptoms of COPD by relaxing your airways and keeping them open. SPIRIVA HandiHaler also reduces the likelihood of flare-ups and worsening of COPD symptoms (COPD exacerbations).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088. Learn more at SPIRIVA.COM, or call 1-877-SPIRIVA.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT BREATHING BETTER. SPIRIVA® HandiHaler® (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder)

Please see Important Safety Information on reverse.

SV205102CONS/SAR00910A

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 138

Patient Information

SPIRIVA® (spah REE vah) HandiHaler®
(tiotropium bromide inhalation powder)

Do NOT swallow SPIRIVA capsules.

Important information. Do not swallow SPIRIVA capsules. SPIRIVA capsules should only be used with the HandiHaler device and inhaled through your mouth (oral inhalation).

Read the information that comes with your SPIRIVA HandiHaler before you start using it and each time you refill your prescription. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

- SPIRIVA HandiHaler is a prescription medicine used each day (a maintenance medicine) to control symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.
- SPIRIVA HandiHaler helps make your lungs work better for 24 hours. SPIRIVA HandiHaler relaxes your airways and helps keep them open. You may start to feel like it is easier to breathe on the first day, but it may take longer for you to feel the full effects of the medicine. SPIRIVA HandiHaler works each day and may help make it easier to breathe when you use it every day.
- SPIRIVA HandiHaler reduces the likelihood of flare-ups and worsening of COPD symptoms (COPD exacerbations). A COPD exacerbation is defined as an increase or new onset of more than one COPD symptom such as cough, mucus, shortness of breath, and wheezing that requires medicine beyond your rescue medicine.

SPIRIVA HandiHaler is not a rescue medicine and should not be used for treating sudden breathing problems. Your doctor may give you other medicine to use for sudden breathing problems.

It is not known if SPIRIVA HandiHaler is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

Do not use SPIRIVA HandiHaler if you:

- are allergic to tiotropium (ipratropium (Atrovent®), or any of the ingredients in SPIRIVA HandiHaler. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in SPIRIVA HandiHaler.

Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to SPIRIVA HandiHaler may include:

- raised red patches on your skin (hives)
- itching
- rash
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing

If you have these symptoms of an allergic reaction, stop taking SPIRIVA HandiHaler and call your doctor right away or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

What should I tell my doctor before using SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

Before taking SPIRIVA HandiHaler, tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have kidney problems.
- have glaucoma. SPIRIVA HandiHaler may make your glaucoma worse.
- have an enlarged prostate, problems passing urine, or a blockage in your bladder. SPIRIVA HandiHaler may make these problems worse.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if SPIRIVA HandiHaler could harm your unborn baby.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. It is not known if SPIRIVA HandiHaler passes into breast milk. You and your doctor will decide if SPIRIVA HandiHaler is right for you while you breast-feed.
- have a severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines and eye drops, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines or supplements may affect the way SPIRIVA HandiHaler works. SPIRIVA HandiHaler is an anticholinergic medicine. You should not take other anticholinergic medicines while using SPIRIVA HandiHaler, including ipratropium. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if one of your medicines is an anticholinergic.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

- Use SPIRIVA HandiHaler exactly as prescribed. Use SPIRIVA HandiHaler one time every day.
- Read the "Instructions for Use" at the end of this leaflet before you use SPIRIVA HandiHaler. Talk with your doctor if you do not understand the instructions.
- **Do not swallow SPIRIVA capsules.**
- **Only use SPIRIVA capsules with the HandiHaler device.**
- **Do not use the HandiHaler device to take any other medicine.**
- SPIRIVA HandiHaler comes as a powder in a SPIRIVA capsule that fits the HandiHaler device. Each SPIRIVA capsule, containing only a small amount of SPIRIVA powder, is one full dose of medicine.
- Separate one blister from the blister card. Then take out one of the SPIRIVA capsules from the blister package right before you use it.
- After the capsule is pierced, take a complete dose of SPIRIVA HandiHaler by breathing in the powder by mouth two times, using the HandiHaler device (take 2 inhalations from one SPIRIVA capsule). See the **"Instructions for Use"** at the end of this leaflet.
- Throw away any SPIRIVA capsule that is not used right away after it is taken out of the blister package. Do not leave the SPIRIVA capsules open to air; they may not work as well.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Do not use Spiriva® HandiHaler® (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) more than one time every 24 hours.
- If you use more than your prescribed dose of SPIRIVA HandiHaler, call your doctor or a poison control center.

What should I avoid while using SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

- Do not let the powder from the SPIRIVA capsule get into your eyes. Your vision may get blurry and the pupil in your eye may get larger (dilate). If this happens, call your doctor.
- SPIRIVA HandiHaler can cause dizziness and blurred vision. Should you experience these symptoms you should use caution when engaging in activities such as driving a car or operating appliances or other machines.

What are the possible side effects of SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

SPIRIVA HandiHaler can cause serious side effects, including: Allergic reaction. Symptoms may include:

- raised red patches on your skin (hives)
- itching
- rash
- swelling of the lips, tongue, or throat that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing

If you have these symptoms of an allergic reaction, stop taking SPIRIVA HandiHaler and call your doctor right away or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

- **Sudden narrowing and blockage of the airways into the lungs (bronchospasm).** Your breathing suddenly gets worse.

If you have these symptoms of bronchospasm, stop taking SPIRIVA HandiHaler and call your doctor right away or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

- **New or worsened increased pressure in the eyes (acute narrow-angle glaucoma).** Symptoms of acute narrow-angle glaucoma may include:
  - eye pain
  - blurred vision
  - seeing halos (visual halos) or colored images along with red eyes

Using only eye drops to treat these symptoms may not work. If you have these symptoms, stop taking SPIRIVA HandiHaler and call your doctor right away.

- **New or worsened urinary retention.** Symptoms of blockage in your bladder and/or enlarged prostate may include: difficulty passing urine, painful urination.

If you have these symptoms of urinary retention, stop taking SPIRIVA HandiHaler and call your doctor right away.

Other side effects with SPIRIVA HandiHaler include:

- upper respiratory tract infection
- dry mouth
- sinus infection
- sore throat
- non-specific chest pain
- urinary tract infection
- indigestion
- runny nose
- constipation
- increased heart rate
- blurred vision

These are not all the possible side effects with SPIRIVA HandiHaler. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How do I store SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

- **Do not store SPIRIVA capsules in the HandiHaler device.**
- Store SPIRIVA capsules in the sealed blister package at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20° to 25°C).
- Keep SPIRIVA capsules away from heat and cold (do not freeze).
- Store SPIRIVA capsules in a dry place. Throw away any unused SPIRIVA capsules that have been open to air.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about storing your SPIRIVA capsules.

Keep SPIRIVA HandiHaler, SPIRIVA capsules, and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about SPIRIVA HandiHaler

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in Patient Information leaflets. Do not use SPIRIVA HandiHaler for a purpose for which it has not been prescribed. Do not give SPIRIVA HandiHaler to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

For more information about SPIRIVA HandiHaler, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about SPIRIVA HandiHaler that is written for health professionals.

For more information about SPIRIVA HandiHaler, go to www.SPIRIVA.com or call Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1-800-542-6257 or (TTY) 1-800-459-9906.

What are the ingredients in SPIRIVA HandiHaler?

Active ingredient: tiotropium Inactive ingredient: lactose monohydrate

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669) or go to www.pparx.org | PPA Partnership for Prescription Assistance

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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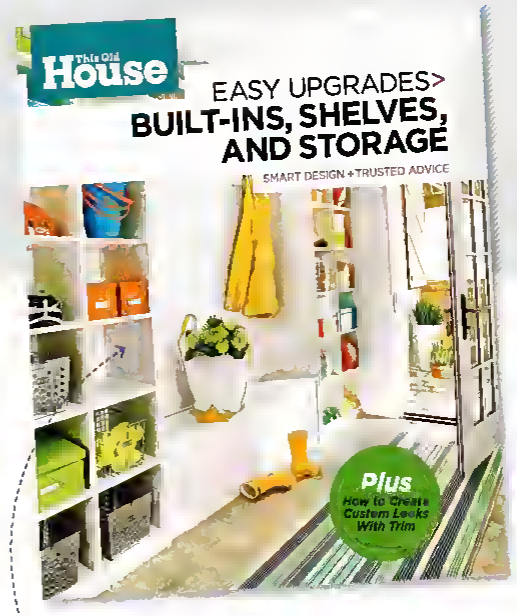
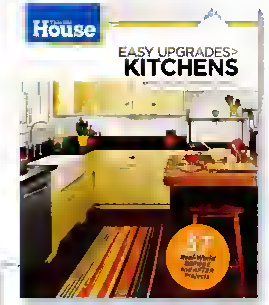
SAR00948 SV-BS-3/12 SV210600CONS

Pfizer Boehringer Ingelheim

NEW from This Old House



Smart ideas to organize and maximize



Also available from the *Easy Upgrades* series

What's inside:

- More than 250 inspiring photos to help you get started
- Bonus Step-by-Steps make a dozen highlighted projects simple to understand and do yourself
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Drop by your local Lumber Liquidators store and get more floor for less.

A lot lighter and totally open

Reworking a haphazard addition gave this DIY-savvy couple room to create one connected space for cooking and gathering By LISA HIGGINS + Photographs by SUSAN TEARE

{during}

during Construction lasted four long years; here, the space is partially open and the remains of a partition wall await demolition. after The classic black and white design is simple enough to work with the traditional detail of the 1901 house.

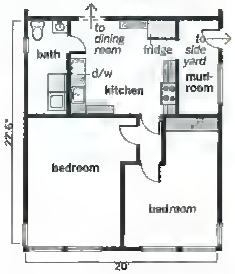
PRODUCED BY GILETTE SCANLON STYLING JOANNE PALMISANO

Many an older home has been the victim of an ill-conceived expansion. For Sara Puretz and Steven Barkyoumb of Burlington, Vermont, it was two low-ceilinged bedrooms that had been tacked onto the back of their Victorian-era house and that led to a makeshift, windowless kitchen marooned between a half bath and the mudroom. For three years, the couple lived with the unused bedrooms and cramped cooking quarters while they planned their ideal meal-prep space. Their goal: one expansive family-room kitchen that would mesh stylistically with the house's period look. "I wanted a place where I could watch the kids play while I cooked," says Sara. All they had to do was gut and redo the dysfunctional first-floor rooms. Steven tackled the construction himself; Sara sourced the materials, finding replicas of high-end pulls at Lowe's, a discounted designer faucet online, and stock cabinets that Steven finished with crown molding. Their one big-ticket buy: soapstone counters with an integrated sink. Worth the $8,000 splurge? "Definitely—they're my favorite part," Sara says happily

→ **The breakfast bar** functions as both dining and work space for homeowners Sara Puretz and Steven Barkyoumb and their two sons. Drawer storage in the peninsula provides access to bulky pots and pans. *Countertops: Vermont Marble Granite, Slate & Soapstone. Cabinets: Mid Continent Cabinetry*

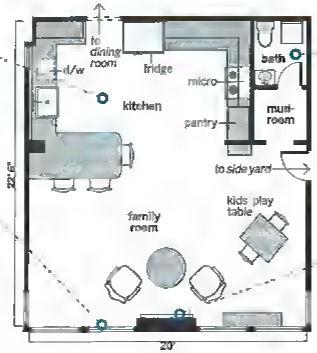
before

The kitchen was tucked between a half bath with a washer and dryer and the mudroom and connected to two unused bedrooms.



after

The two-bedroom addition was gutted for the new family room and the kitchen, bath, and mudroom spaces were jiggered.



1_ Enlarged the kitchen, relocating the half bath but keeping the existing window. Only the stove wall stayed intact.

2_ Turned two bedrooms into one open family space with a vaulted ceiling and new double-hungs to replace narrow awning windows.

3_ Moved the bath, stacked the washer and dryer, and made a mudroom alcove. The side entry now opens into the family room.

4_ Added a gas fireplace on a thermostat to heat the expansive new space.

FLOOR PLANS: IAN WOLFFOLK

SAMSUNG BRINGS SMART DESIGN
TO THE OTHER FAMILY ROOM.

create wonder

It's always good to have extra hands around the kitchen. like an extra-large capacity* French door refrigerator and our Flex Duo™ range that easily converts to a double oven. Discover how Samsung can bring beauty and innovation to your kitchen at *facebook.com/samsunghomeappliances*.

SAMSUNG

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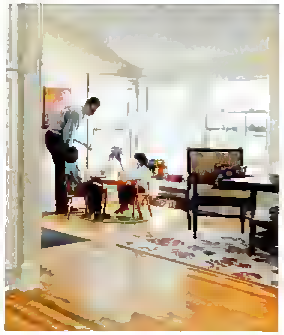
*Samsung RF525TE actual capacity 31.6 cu. ft.

• the key details

→ **The family room,** with a gas fireplace, has large energy-efficient windows that fill the space with light. *Fireplace. Vermont Castings. Windows. Green Mountain Window*



↑ **A play area** was designed for the couple's two sons. Rowan, 8, and Gus, 4, toys are stored in baskets under a freestanding bench by the windows.

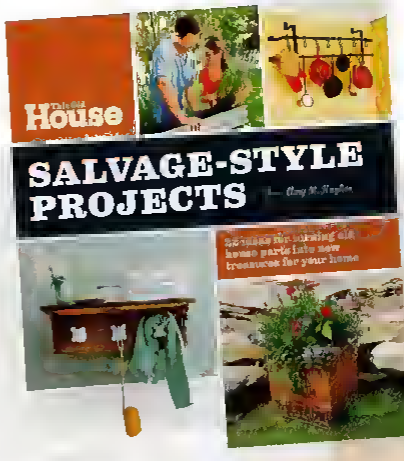
▶ **the ultimate open-plan space**
Find a one-wall kitchen design at thisoldhouse.com/oct2012

↑ **The soapstone sink** has an apron front and a high backsplash. Drainage grooves in the countertop encourage water to flow sinkward. *Bridge faucet. Giagni*

← **Open shelves,** supported by inexpensive wood brackets, allow Sara easy access and a chance to show off her glassware. *Brackets. IKEA*

homeowner tip
SARA PURETZ, BURLINGTON, VT
"I deliberately left the sink and cooktop out of the kitchen peninsula, so I never have to worry about piles of dirty dishes or burned fingers when the kids sit there."

THE TOP-SELLING BOOK FROM This Old House



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Oxmoor House
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FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 138

For Remodeling Done Right, Hire an NKBA Pro

While many aspects of your house may be just right, chances are you will still have updates or projects that make it your dream home. If you're considering kitchen and bath remodels, calling in an experienced professional is typically the most cost-efficient and stress-free approach. An NKBA professional has the expertise and knowledge to guide you through the entire process, ensuring that your newly remodeled space meets and even exceeds your expectations, adheres to local building codes and safety guidelines, and falls within your budget and timeline.

Follow Us:

NKBA National Kitchen & Bath Association

Here are some of the hottest trends, to help you begin creating your vision, which can be turned into your dream kitchen or bath.

THE WHITE KITCHEN, REINVENTED. Classic, contemporary, clean, sparse—the white kitchen has been called many things, but one thing can be said, it's a consistent in kitchen design. White has neatly and cleverly reinvented itself to remain in the archives and future of home kitchens, in hues ranging from snow white to varying shades of creamy, muted, milky tones.

SUSPENDED LIGHTING. With angled spotlights running along a track serving as the hard working partners, suspended lighting becomes the part of a layered lighting plan that highlights points on countertops, dining surfaces and flooring, playing the more visually prominent and artistic role. These can be come the sculptural accents that provide the desired touch of glimmer and elegance.

OPEN CONCEPT BATHROOM. Open plan bathrooms are more prevalent than ever and are not defined or confined by square footage. With the design centered on complete efficiency of the space, eliminating even the shower stall, allows the entire expanse of the room to be usable. The minimalistic approach produces a stylishly sleek and adaptable outcome.

NKBA.org/YourHome

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Still narrow, but brighter and airier

Just a few extra feet and some clever reworking give a once hemmed-in space needed elbow room and a clean new look By AMANDA SHETTLETON • Photographs by JASON VARNEY

Narrow doesn't have to mean cramped. But to Cyndi and Doug Alioth of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, their dark, tunnel-like master bath definitely felt crowded. Only about 5 feet wide, it had two interior walls that broke up the space, a small fiberglass shower insert, a single sink, and only one window. "We wanted the bath to feel more spacious and uncluttered," Cyndi says. So when the only practical way to expand it proved to be lengthwise, they stole 2 feet from the bedroom to square off a closet bumpout. Doug, a math teacher and an avid woodworker, gutted the space and rebuilt it, keeping the same basic layout. With knowledge gleaned from YouTube videos, he enlarged the shower to run the width of the back wall and put in four new windows. Then he built a double vanity with two separate sinks, and two medicine cabinets for needed storage. After six months of part-time remodeling, the couple finally had a light-filled bath with breathing room. "We had a vision," Cyndi says proudly, "and Doug made it come true."

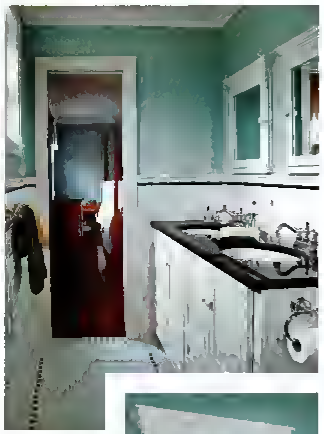
{before}

before At only 40 square feet, the 1980s bath was dark, confined, and in need of an update. **after** Lots of white tile and a frameless glass enclosed shower create the illusion of size. *Tile: American Olean. Faucets: Danze.*

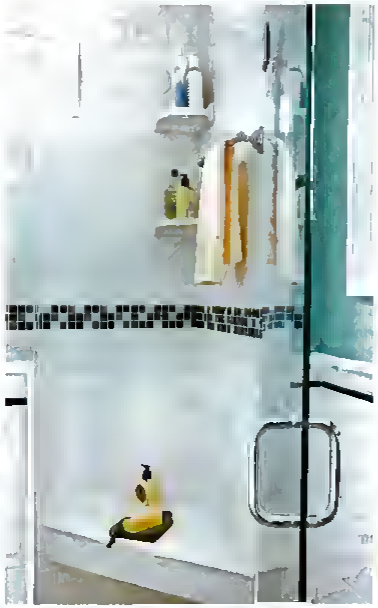
PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON; STYLING: MARIELLEN MELVER

• the key details

↓ The new double vanity has his-and-hers sinks. Watery blue walls add a serene feel to the space. *Paint, Valspar's Blue Arrow*



→ Recessed medicine cabinets with vintage-style wood details were designed and built by Doug



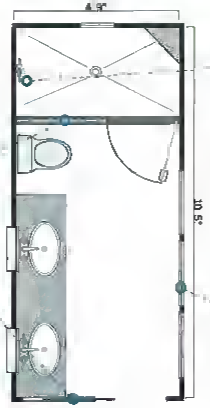
← A corner seat made of remnant quartz fits easily in the shower, now twice its former size and with a small window set high for privacy. White 4-by-4 tiles arranged in a diamond pattern sit above a band of glass mosaics, with subway tiles below.

↓ DIY casings dress up "misordered" custom windows bought at discount at a builders' supply company. *Windows, Simonton*

13 great ideas
Find more small-bath solutions at **thisoldhouse.com/oct2012**

• after

Boosted to 53 square feet, with a bigger shower, two sinks, and more windows, the bath is now bright and open.



1_ Added a half wall in the shower to provide a modicum of privacy in the straight run space

2_ Annexed 2 feet from the bedroom to allow for a double vanity. Installed a space-saving pocket door to eliminate the door swing.

3_ Expanded the shower moving the plumbing to accommodate the half wall's glass panel. Added a small privacy window on the back wall to help brighten the space.

4_ Swapped one window opposite the sink for three to bring in lots more natural light.

FLOOR PLAN: IAN WORKMAN

homeowner tip

DOUG ALIOTH, MECHANICSBURG, PA

"Spend the money for epoxy grout, at least on surfaces that will come in contact with water. It's incredibly durable, virtually stainproof, and doesn't need sealing."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 138

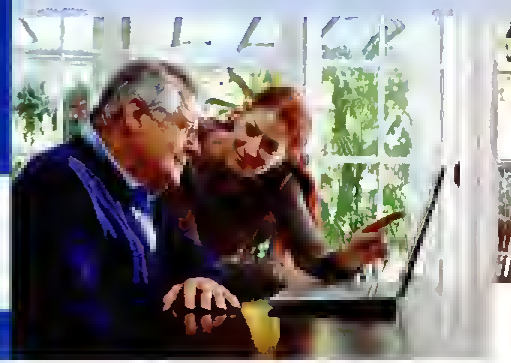
If you have an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, or AFib, not caused by a heart valve problem, **PRADAXA** can reduce your risk of stroke.

• In a clinical trial, PRADAXA **reduced stroke risk 35% more** than warfarin. Risk reduction was greatest when compared to patients on warfarin whose blood tests showed lower levels of control.

• **Unlike warfarin, no regular blood tests.**

Ask your doctor about
Pradaxa®
dabigatran etexilate
CAPSULES 150 mg

"With my AFib, I'm glad my daughter had me talk to my doctor again about reducing my stroke risk."



WHAT IS *PRADAXA*?

Pradaxa® (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) capsules is a prescription blood thinning medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT *PRADAXA*

PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious and sometimes lead to death. Don't take PRADAXA if you currently have abnormal bleeding or if you have ever had an allergic reaction to it.

Your risk of bleeding with PRADAXA may be higher if you: are 75 years old or older, have kidney problems, have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back or you have a stomach ulcer, take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, like aspirin products, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and blood thinners, have kidney problems and take dronedarone (Multaq®) or ketoconazole tablets (Nizoral®).

Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if you have any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding: any unexpected, severe, or uncontrollable bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, unusual or unexpected bruising, coughing up or vomiting blood, or vomit that looks like coffee grounds, pink or brown urine, red or black stools (looks like tar), unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain, headaches and feeling dizzy or weak.

It is important to tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. Some of your other medicines may effect the way PRADAXA works.

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Don't stop taking PRADAXA without talking to your doctor as your risk of stroke may increase.
Tell your doctor if you are planning to have **any** surgery, or medical or dental procedure, because you may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time.

PRADAXA can cause indigestion, stomach upset or burning, and stomach pain.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see more detailed Medication Guide on next page.

Pradaxa®
dabigatran etexilate
CAPSULES 150 mg

For more information or help paying for your medication, call 1-877-PRADAXA or visit pradaxa.com

For handy tools and tips for caregivers, scan here for pradaxa.com/caregiver

Boehringer Ingelheim

PX1184000000A

Pradaxa®
dabigatran etexilate
CAPSULES 150mg

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking PRADAXA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?

- PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious, and sometimes lead to death. This is because PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take PRADAXA and:**
  - are over 75 years old
  - have kidney problems
  - have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back, or you have a stomach ulcer
  - take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
    - aspirin or aspirin containing products
    - long-term (chronic) use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
    - warfarin sodium (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
    - a medicine that contains heparin
    - clopidogrel (Plavix®)
    - prasugrel (Effient®)
  - have certain kidney problems and also take the medicines dronedarone (Multaq®) or ketoconazole tablets (Nizoral®).

  Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.
- PRADAXA can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens the ability of your blood to clot. While you take PRADAXA:
  - you may bruise more easily
  - it may take longer for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nose bleeds that happen often
  - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- pink or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)

MEDICATION GUIDE

PRADAXA (pra dax' a)
(dabigatran etexilate mesylate)
capsules

- bruises that happen without a known cause or get larger
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like "coffee grounds"
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of a stroke.

PRADAXA may need to be stopped, if possible, for one or more days before any surgery, or medical or dental procedure. If you need to stop taking PRADAXA for **any reason**, talk to the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you to find out when you should stop taking it. Your doctor will tell you when to start taking PRADAXA again after your surgery or procedure.

See "What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?" for more information about side effects.

What is PRADAXA?

PRADAXA is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have a medical condition called atrial fibrillation. With atrial fibrillation, part of the heart does not beat the way it should. This can lead to blood clots forming and increase your risk of a stroke. PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.

It is not known if PRADAXA is safe and works in children.

Who should not take PRADAXA?

Do not take PRADAXA if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding. Talk to your doctor, before taking PRADAXA if you currently have unusual bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to PRADAXA. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

What should I tell my doctor before taking PRADAXA?

Before you take PRADAXA, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney problems
- have ever had bleeding problems
- have ever had stomach ulcers
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if PRADAXA will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if PRADAXA passes into your breast milk.

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking PRADAXA. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you, before you have **any** surgery, or medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding. See **"What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"**

Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take PRADAXA?

- **Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor.**
- Do not take PRADAXA more often than your doctor tells you to
- You can take PRADAXA with or without food
- **PRADAXA comes in a bottle or in a blister package.**
- **Only open 1 bottle of PRADAXA at a time. Finish your opened bottle of PRADAXA before opening a new bottle.**
- **After opening a bottle of PRADAXA, use within 4 months. See "How should I store PRADAXA?"**
- **When it is time for you to take a dose of PRADAXA, only remove your prescribed dose of PRADAXA from your open bottle or blister package.**
- **Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.**
- Swallow PRADAXA capsules whole. Do not break, chew or empty the pellets from the capsule.
- If you miss a dose of PRADAXA, take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is less than 6 hours away, skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses of PRADAXA at the same time.
- Your doctor will decide how long you should take PRADAXA. **Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking with your doctor. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of stroke.**
- Do not run out of PRADAXA. Refill your prescription before you run out. If you plan to have surgery, or a medical or a dental procedure, tell your doctor and dentist that you are taking PRADAXA. You may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time. See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"
- If you take too much PRADAXA, go to the nearest hospital emergency room or call your doctor.
- Call your healthcare provider right away if you fall or injure yourself, especially if you hit your head. Your healthcare provider may need to check you.

What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?

PRADAXA can cause serious side effects:

- See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"
- Allergic Reactions. In some people, PRADAXA can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with PRADAXA:
  - chest pain or chest tightness
  - swelling of your face or tongue
  - trouble breathing or wheezing
  - feeling dizzy or faint

Common side effects of PRADAXA include:

- indigestion, upset stomach, or burning
- stomach pain

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PRADAXA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store PRADAXA?

- Store PRADAXA at room temperature between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C). After opening the bottle, use PRADAXA within 4 months. Safely throw away any unused PRADAXA after 4 months.
- **Keep PRADAXA in the original bottle or blister package to keep it dry (protect the capsules from moisture). Do not put PRADAXA in pill boxes or pill organizers.**
- **Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.**

Keep PRADAXA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about PRADAXA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use PRADAXA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your PRADAXA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about PRADAXA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about PRADAXA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to www.PRADAXA.com or call 1-800-542-6257 or (TTY) 1-800-459-9906.

What are the ingredients in PRADAXA?

Active ingredient: dabigatran etexilate mesylate

Inactive ingredients: acacia, dimethicone, hypromellose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, talc, and tartaric acid. The capsule shell is composed of carrageenan, FD&C Blue No. 2 (150 mg strength only), FD&C Yellow No. 6, hypromellose, potassium chloride, titanium dioxide, and black edible ink.

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Distributed by:
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Ridgefield, CT 06877 USA
Revised: January 2012

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Roll on a ceiling medallion

Flatter your fixture with a lacy frame that suggests old-world plasterwork. With the help of a stencil and craft paint, you can do it in a flash By DEBORAH BALDWIN • Photographs by JULIAN WASS

Cost: About $75
Time: An hour or so
Difficulty: Easy, though working overhead has its challenges

Some decorative painting projects require lots of time and artfulness, but this one is so straightforward that it's fine for beginners. The secret is a flexible, semicircular stencil, which you use twice to create a full-circle medallion. There are plenty to choose from; here, decorative painter Ingrid Leess used the Georgian Ceiling Medallion ($55; cuttingedgestencils.com), which stencil designer Janna Makaeva based on historic plasterwork. "This stencil would suit a pendant fixture, too, or no fixture at all, to add interest to a plain ceiling," says Leess, who trimmed the center of the stencil to fit this large ceiling-mount fixture. Before choosing a stencil, she recommends folding large sheets of paper into quarters and cutting out rough templates to determine the right size for your project. Though this medallion goes up one half at a time, "the whole thing took only 45 minutes," Leess says. Add 15 minutes to practice the technique on poster board beforehand, and you're still done in an hour. Not bad, given the dramatic impact on the ceiling—and the room. For the complete step-by-step, turn the page

For a unified look, choose a paint color that echoes the finish on the light fixture.

useful tools

Repositionable spray adhesive holds the stencil in place. Craft paint goes on quickly with a dense-foam roller, and a stiff stencil brush can create lighter highlights

PHOTO (INSET): TED MATHESON; STYLING: INGRID LEESS

1_ Prepare the stencil and paint. If you have a large fixture, you may need to trim the center of a half-medallion stencil to fit. Mist the stencil with repositionable spray adhesive, and press it onto the ceiling. a couple of bits of painter's tape can be a reminder not to roll over the edges. Pour 2 to 3 tablespoons of metallic craft or latex paint onto a styrofoam plate.

2_ Roll on two coats. To keep paint from bleeding under the stencil, use an almost dry roller. Load the roller until it absorbs most of the paint, and remove excess by rolling it over a folded paper towel several times. It's better to have too little paint than too much. Move to the stencil, rolling with light to medium pressure. Peel back a stencil corner to check that you're satisfied with the coverage.

3_ Use a lightly loaded stencil brush to add highlights. To give the medallion a bit more luster and depth, add highlights with a lighter color paint, using a stencil brush and a pouncing motion. Blot the brush on a folded paper towel before stippling some of the cutouts' "spines." If you like the effect, add a few more.

4_ Peel off the stencil and repeat. Gently remove the stencil. No need to clean it, just reposition the stencil on the other side of the fixture, lining it up with the pattern you've created for a seamless circle. Apply two coats of paint, pounce on highlights if you'd like, and remove the stencil. Now turn on the light and enjoy.

more ideas
For a look at six other decorative painting techniques go to thisoldhouse.com/oct2012

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

TRICKS OF THE TRADES

THE INSIDE TRACK TO WHAT THE PROS KNOW SO YOU CAN WORK SMARTER AND FINISH YOUR PROJECTS FASTER

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We've rounded up a list of our favorite pro tips and insider tricks, including some from expert This Old Houee reeders, thet ere sure to help you become a bettar, smartar, and gutsier DIYer.

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PREP FOR QUICKER CLEAN-UP

PAINTING POINTERS: Using a nail, punch several holes in the lip of a paint can so that the paint will drip back into the can and not run over the edge. An even easier way to remove excess paint and keep it from dripping over the rim: slip a rubber band across the top of the can and run your brush across the band each time you dip.

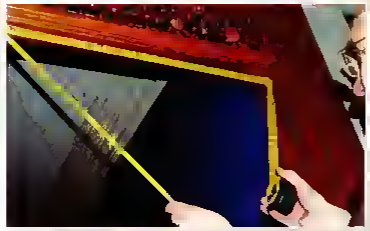
TRAY LINER IN A PINCH. Out of disposable paint tray liners? Use a grocery-store bag in the tray instead. The bag's handles make removing and tossing it a snap.

STOP GAP: Before unloading mulch, compost, or stones from your truck, plug the gap between the bed and the tailgate with some foam pipe insulation.

HUSTLE UP DRYWALL: Don't tiptoe around receptacle boxes with joint compound. Stuff them with newspaper first. When you're done, remove the paper and the excess compound will come with it.

DUST THE DUST: Instead of smoothing patching compound with sandpaper, use a household scrubbing sponge. The surface will be just as smooth as silk.

PROBLEM-SOLVING, TIME-SAVERS



▲ **MEASURING HEIGHTS:** To get a rough measurement of something you can't reach, extend a measuring tape until you have enough tape to make a triangle big enough for the middle segment to reach the object you're trying to measure. You might end up with one end of the object at, say, 53 inches and the other end at 39 inches, so your measurement would be 14 inches (53 minus 39).

GET A SNUG FIT: Stuff a rubber-hose washer into the threaded base of a paint-roller's handle, and it won't wobble on the pole when you're stretching for the ceiling.

NOTE TO SELF: BEFORE DRILLING INTO DRYWALL, FOLD A LARGE STICKY NOTE IN HALF AND AFFIX IT TO THE WALL BENEATH YOUR MARK. IT'LL CATCH THE DRYWALL DUST, KEEPING IT OFF THE FLOOR AND CARPET.

SPIN DRY: After rinsing paint from your brush, hold the handle between your hands and roll it back and forth. Just be sure to position the bristles in a bucket to contain the flying droplets.

PRESERVE CHALK LINES. Keep chalk lines from being erased or rubbed off by spraying them with a light coat of hair spray. The spray won't affect adhesives and will last until you get the job done.

GET A BETTER FIT: Give loose screws some meat to bite into by filling their holes with a mixture of sawdust and glue before driving them back in.

WAX FACT: For gluing delicate pieces (such as a tea cup or a figurine) where a vise can't be used, form a piece of soft wax to hold the broken piece in place, then glue it. The wax will easily pull away after the glue has cured without leaving any scars.

DO-IT-RIGHT DIY

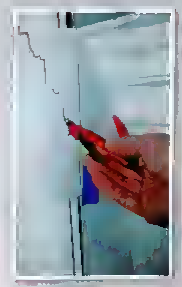
▶ **USE NATURE'S INSULATION:** To slash your utility bill, plant deciduous trees on the east, west, or northwest sides of your house. They'll block the brutal summer sun. Then, when the leaves drop, they'll let sunlight heat up your place.

SHIELD NEW FOUNDATION PLANTINGS: Would you want to get pounded by falling snow all winter? Neither do your evergreen shrubs. Protect them with a simple A-frame of pressure-treated 2x4s clad with exterior-grade plywood.

FUZZ BUSTER: Run a strip of painter's tape over any new roller cover, and it'll remove all the nap that would otherwise end up in your paint job.

CLEANER CAULKING. Dip your finger in dish soap before smoothing a fresh bead of caulk to keep the silicone from sticking to your skin.

TEMPLATE TRANSFER: When you need to cut a piece of drywall around an intricate border or molding, all you need is a piece of cardboard and a pencil compass. Hold the cardboard perpendicular to the molding. With the point of the pencil on the cardboard, run the point end of the compass over the molding.



MAKE THE GRADE: Don't let rainwater bum-rush your foundation. Hammer in some stakes in a line away from the house and check the grade. Tie string around them and measure. The ground should slope ¼-inch every 10 feet; if it doesn't, add topsoil around your foundation until it does.

WOOD-TRIM PREP: To enhance the smoothness of wood trim, try rubbing the surface with a damp cloth to raise the wood's grain. Wait until dry, then sand and prime as usual for a glass-smooth finish.

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▲ **WRAP YOUR PIPES—ALL OF THEM:** Everyone knows to wrap hot-water pipes. But you should also wrap cold-water pipes to prevent them from dripping condensation in summer—and protect against freezing in winter.

TROUBLESHOOTERS

PREVENT ENGINE GUNK: Gas nowadays has a high percentage of ethanol, which breaks down into engine-clogging sludge. Protect your motorized equipment by storing them with fuel treated with an additive that will neutralize ethanol.

SKIFTY TOILET: To see if your toilet has a leak between the tank and the bowl, drop some food dye into the tank and wait to see if the color runs into the bowl. If it does, replace the gasket between the bowl and the tank.

EASY WAY TO SPOT HOLES: If you have critters in the attic, wait for a sunny day. Then head up there, look for daylight peeking through any holes in the sheathing, and plug them up.

▶ **TOOL LOVE:** Wipe wood-handled tools with a light coat of linseed oil to prevent cracking during winter. While you're at it, spray the metal surfaces with a rust-busting lubricant.

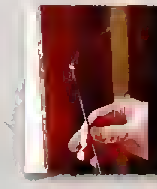
GOT DUCT LEAKS? Coat the ducts of your HVAC system with a mixture of soap and water, then wait for the bubbles. Seal the ducts with mastic and foil tape, not duct tape, which won't withstand temperature fluctuations.

ON-THE-JOB IMPROV

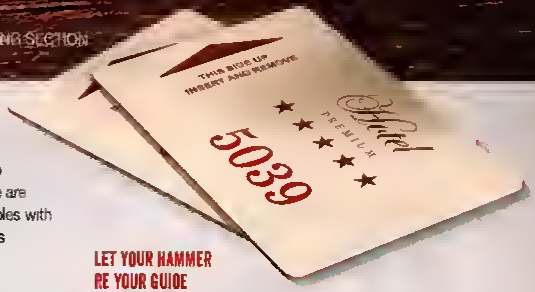
GOOD VIBRATIONS: If you need to settle concrete, remove the blade from a reciprocating saw, hold the nose against the form, and pull the trigger.

SMALL-SPACE SMARTS: When struggling to get nuts or bolts into tough locations, use a piece of Gorilla Tape to affix the hardware to the tool. As you tighten the hardware, the tape will come off and you will have saved yourself two very valuable things: time and sanity.

CENTER INSET CABINET DOORS: For a consistent gap all the way around, shim inset doors with business cards or plastic gift cards during installation.



DETECT DRAFTS: TO FIND SMALL LEAKS AROUND YOUR CLOSED WINDOWS OR DOORS, LIGHT A SMOKE PENCIL OR A STICK OF INCENSE. THEN WATCH THE SMOKE TRAIL. IF IT FLOWS TOWARD OR AWAY FROM THE GAP, YOU'VE A GOT LEAK TO WEATHERSTRIP.



▶ **MULTIPURPOSE TOOL:** Don't know what to do with all those old plastic-card hotel keys? Here are a few smart ideas: smooth out caulk, fill nail holes with spackling, scrape a glass cooktop clean, use as a spatula to mix wood fillers or epoxy, stabilize wobbly table legs.

RUST ICE DAMS: Fill a paper bag with ice melt, then forcefully chuck it up onto the roof, behind the dam. The bag will break and the ice will melt.

NO MEASURING TAPE? NO PROBLEM!

PUCKER UP: Forget measuring when you're drywalling around receptacle boxes. Outline the box with lipstick, then press the drywall against the box. When you pull the drywall way, the box's shape will be transferred to the back for an exact impression you can use as a cutting guide.

LET YOUR HAMMER BE YOUR GUIDE

When doing repetitive, even-spaced nailing, just mark the required distance from the hammer head down the handle with a piece of colored electrical tape. Align the tape marker at your first nail, position a new nail at the head, and hammer it in.

A PINT IS A POUND: This old adage helps calculate the amount and spread rate of fertilizer specified in pounds per thousand square feet of lawn. Fill a pint-size container for each pound needed.

LOOK DOWN: Use floor tiles to measure when you're in the hardware store. They are usually 12-by-12-inch squares, and are especially effective for measuring chain, rope, and PVC pipe.

STRETCHING A DOLLAR: DON'T HAVE YOUR TAPE MEASURE? OPEN YOUR WALLET AND GRAB A BILL—EACH ONE IS JUST OVER 6 INCHES LONG. FOLD IT IN HALF, AND GUESS WHAT? IT'S JUST OVER 3" LONG. FOLD IT AGAIN AND, WELL, YOU GET THE IDEA.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROS FOR SHARING THEIR TRICKS: Donald Alevas, *Patchogue, N.Y.*; Joe Anello, *Carmel, N.Y.*; Michael K. Arnold, *Aurora, Ill.*; Janice Badkin, *Amagansett, N.Y.*; Cynthia Barker Congdon, *Gloucester, Mass.*; Steve Beatty, *Elmwood, Wis.*; Mary Bell, *Wickliffe, Ohio*; Ken Berkowitz, *Frederick, Md.*; Devon Bjansky, *Austin, Texas*; T. Clifton, *Grove City, Ohio*; Cynthia E. Dixon, *Ashland, Ky.*; Ken Fath, *Upland, Calif.*; John Gallagher, *Prospect, Ky.*; Les Heintz, *Fresno, Calif.*; Greg Kachnovitz, *Spring, Texas*; Alex Kozol, *Wallingford, Pa.*; Marc Marovitz, *Prospect, Ill.*; Jeff McElroy, *Danville, Calif.*; Tim Moseley, *Scaly Mountain, N.C.*; Linda Outwater, *Newberry, Mich.*; Wayne Podolak, *Fond du Lac, Wis.*; Mat Rzegocki, *Westfield, Mass.*; Paul VanNooy, *Hockessin, Del.*; Jack Weber, *Cleveland, Ohio*

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Elegant cabinet knobs that only look expensive

Make over your cook space in a day with low-cost, high-impact hardware

By AMY ROBERTS • Photographs by TED MORRISON

No money for a major kitchen redo? Got a sense of style that dwarfs your budget? We know the feeling. Which is why we went on the hunt for fancy—yet affordable—cabinet hardware to upgrade the look without the expense of an overhaul. What we found are truly special knobs in a range of styles and sophisticated finishes, from traditional aged bronze with elaborate engravings to updated pewter and satin-nickel versions with crisp, clean lines. Here, 18 high-class cabinet knobs, not one of which is more than 10 bucks, with most being far cheaper. And the best part is, we can keep those prices between us.

swirling leaf
BELWITH KEELER
Size 1⅛-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a bronze finish
Cost $4.79, vandykes.com

radiating rings
ALLEN + ROTH
Size 1¼ inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a satin-nickel finish
Cost $3.33, lowes.com

silvery filigree
LIBERTY HARDWARE
Size 1⅛-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a matte nickel finish
Cost $2.99, homedepot.com

copper boxes
BERENSON HARDWARE
Size 1⅛ inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a copper finish
Cost $9.98, cabinetparts.com

hammered dome
HÄFELE
Size 1¼ inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a pewter finish
Cost $2.59 myknobs.com
GET 28% OFF! SEE PAGE 58

classic melon
BALDWIN HARDWARE
Size 1¼ inch diameter
Made of Solid brass with a satin and black finish
Cost $9.80, gracioushome.com

vintage floral
VAN DYKE'S RESTORERS
Size 1¼-inch diameter
Made of Solid brass
Cost $6.49 vandykes.com

beaded and cupped
CKP BRAND
Size 1½-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with an antiqued-pewter finish
Cost $3.08 oneknobsandpulls.com
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ribbon and reed
BERENSON HARDWARE
Size 1¼-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a bronze finish
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bordered weave
HICKORY HARDWARE
Size 1¼ inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a pewter finish
Cost $5.89 menards.com

Modern fluting
ATLAS HOMEWARES
1½ inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a pewter finish
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BRAINERD
Size 1 inch diameter
Made of Zinc with an iron finish
Cost $2.97, lowes.com

crisp hexagonal
HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE
Size 1¼ inch diameter
Made of Solid brass with a satin nickel finish
Cost $8.79, hoah.biz
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bronze beading
WELLINGTON HARDWARE
Size 1⅜ inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a bronze finish
Cost $4.76, cooknobsandpulls.com
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textured clover
ALLEN + ROTH
Size 1½-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with an aged-brass finish
Cost $2.76, lowes.com

twining vine
STONE MILL HARDWARE
Size 1¼-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with an oil-rubbed bronze finish
Cost $3.81, atgstores.com
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retro sunburst
BETSY FIELD DESIGNS
Size 1½-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with a brushed satin pewter finish
Cost $4.97, lowes.com

sheaves of wheat
HARDWARE RESOURCES
Size 1⅛-inch diameter
Made of Zinc with an antiqued-copper finish
Cost $2.44, knobsandhardware.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 138

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Colorful vintage kitchen

Period touches, including vibrant patterned wallpaper, dress up an otherwise rustic eating and prep space By JESSICA DODELL-FEDER • Photograph by JIM WESTPHALEN

A vintage-style kitchen can mean many things: farmhouse fixtures, weathered finishes, simple shapes. In this cook space it translates into a warm, homey room that also has an elegant side. "The look is low-key Victorian," says homeowner and architect Sandy Vitzthum, who mixed timeworn furniture, such as a distressed table, with more refined turn-of-the-century touches, like a pendant lamp. A cast-iron sink and prized cherry-red Aga stove add extra character and do double duty as prep surfaces. Another smart use of space: the custom wall-mounted hutch, which includes a drip rack for plates. "We don't have a dishwasher, so that was essential!" she says. Inspired? Here's how to get a high-design setup like this one without obliterating your budget.

PHOTOS: (WALLPAPER) TED MUNN GUN (SINK, LEGS, CERAMICS, SHELF BRACKETS) HOWELL T. WEIMER, IPA, NYT (HAT) BRIAN HENN/TIME INC. (PIG TAIL STUDIO)

get this look for less

bowl pendant

This light shares the same chain mount and dainty detailing of the homeowner's original. $184, lumens.com

classic ceramics

The simple silhouettes and rich glazes of this sturdy pitcher and bowl give them the look of heirlooms in the making. Pitcher, $30, lecreuset.com. Bowl, $34, potterybarn.com

farmhouse sink

We found this 1930s porcelain-enameled cast-iron fixture on Craigslist for $150—one-tenth the price of a spotless reproduction. Clean up any rust stains with a cleanser containing oxalic acid, like Bar Keepers Friend. Then elevate its look with turned maple console legs. Legs, $27 each, osbornewood.com

wall paint

A dark shade of straw on the paneling below the wallpapered area enhances the room's warmth. Natura interior Paint in Beverly Hills, $55 per gallon, benjaminmoore.com

handsome storage

Give a plain shelf and open cabinetry a finished look by edging both with crown molding and supporting them with chunky brackets. Molding, $17 for 8 feet and brackets, $7.50 each, lowes.com

old-school teapot

While you may not be ready to splurge on an Aga stove, BonJour's enameled kettle offers a taste of its hot color and yesteryear style. $40, potsandpans.com

accent table

Boost sparse counter space with this espresso-hued table, which has an extra long drawer, perfect for flatware or napkins. $120, worldmarket.com

spindle-back chair

This rubberwood perch proves you can get Windsor style seating at a wallet-friendly price. $60, lampsplus.com

dining table

A sculptural pedestal base dresses up this mahogany stained dining surface, which comes with a leaf to accommodate six. $400, pier1.com

sunny wallpaper

Replicate the golden graphics of the homeowner's pricey hand-crafted paper with one of these lower-cost options. Bottom: Giacomo, $59 per roll; and Open Trellis, $49 per roll, yarkwall.com. Top (roll): Key Largo, $42 per roll, thibautdesign.com

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Craftsman makeover for a no-frills ranch

A relocated front door and a proper entry porch make this house more approachable

By DEBORAH SNOONIAN + Illustration by HOWARD DIGITAL

[before]

"In a word, it's bland," says Mark Foohey of the circa 1954 ranch he shares with wife Valerie and son Logan, in Austin, Texas. "We're not sure how to give it more character." To help him, we asked architect Donovan Davis to reimagine the exterior.

Right away, Davis zeroed in on the front entry. "It's confusing," he says. "There's a window where the door should be, and the door is hidden away to the left of the stairs, so it's practically invisible from the street." Moving the door to a front-facing spot would create a more welcoming facade and improve the floor plan because it would open into the mudroom rather than the living room, as it does now.

For the rest of the makeover, Davis took cues from the house's design. "The one-story structure and stone base have a Craftsman-like quality," he says, so he added square porch columns and other period-style touches. He also extended the porch to match the bumped-out facade on the left, topping both areas with open-truss gables. "I'd never have thought to widen the entry steps," says Mark. "The bigger porch alone makes the house feel so inviting." ●

Finishing touches

An earthy color palette pairs well with rustic, natural-looking finishes.→

paint
Moss green and clay are a classic Craftsman color combo. Pratt & Lambert's Thyme Green (siding) and Lambswool (trim). $39 per gallon

stone veneer
It adds heft to the porch columns and ties them to the handsome water table base. Eldorado Stone, from $6 per square foot

sconce
Tiffany-style honey glass and a rubbed-bronze finish cast a warm glow. J du J Mission Hills. $50

entry door
Sidelights and patterned glass boost the porch's curb appeal. Therma-Tru, from $3,483 unfinished

WANT A PHOTOSHOP REDO? Send snapshots to **redo@thisoldhouse.com**

PHOTO: (PAINT BANS) MARK HENN/T ING INC. © DITAL STUDIO

Ladder bookshelf

Assemble a custom tiered storage unit or opt for a ready-made one

By CODY CALAMAIO • Photograph by IAN SPANIER

A ladder bookshelf provides the perfect storage solution for an old home. Leaning against a wall, it conveniently sidesteps baseboard moldings and receptacles, and with just two feet to level, it's not so easily upset by those charming warped floors. Maybe best of all, unlike closed bookcases, the open, airy design helps the room feel more spacious—all for not much more than the cost of a few feet of floor space.

Delicate as it may appear, the notched hardwood frame at right is plenty sturdy, and with its balanced design, it won't topple. To mimic the look without having to cut notches, we sandwiched two layers of 1x3s together for the uprights.

There are plenty of some-assembly-required options out there if you'd prefer to buy a ladder bookshelf. Or you could follow our plans and knock one out in an afternoon, probably in less time than it would take to choose from the thousands of variations available online. Either way, you're sure to appreciate the unobtrusive new shelf space.

Shown: Linea Leaning Bookcase in Java by The Container Store, $139, containerstore.com

more storage ideas

For dozens of projects that help you make the most of your space, go to **thisoldhouse.com/oct2012**

build it

Modify the height and width to vary your shelf space

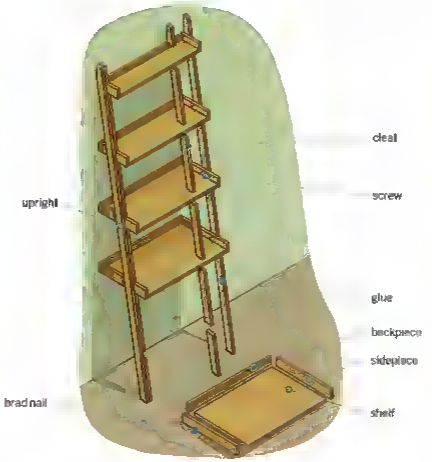
Cost: $82 for poplar
Time: 6 hours
Difficulty: Easy. The structure is simple, though the many angled cuts need to be made with care

1. **Cut the pieces.** Follow the cut list at thisoldhouse.com/oct2012 to make the assembly pieces. First, make all the straight cuts for the shelves. Then set the miter-saw blade to 10 degrees and cut the uprights and cleats at parallel angles.

2. **Build the shelves.** Run a bead of wood glue along the back edge of a shelf, butt the shelf into its backpiece, and tack it in place with 2-inch brad nails. Glue and tack the sidepieces onto the shelf in the same manner, making sure they're flush at the back end bottom. Wipe away any excess glue.

3. **Attach the cleats.** Starting at the bottom of the uprights, glue the cleats in place, using scrap 1x3s to block out space for the shelves. Secure the cleats with 1¼-inch brad nails. To make the tops of the uprights sit flat against the wall, trim ¼ inch off their back edges, perpendicular to the 10-degree end cuts.

4. **Join the shelves.** Stand up the tiered shelves on their backs, arranged shortest to tallest, on a level work surface. Dry-fit the shelves into the notches on the uprights. Make sure that the trimmed wall-side edges of the uprights rest flat against the work surface. Now glue the shelves to the uprights and drive two 1¼-inch screws through each shelf's sidepieces and into the uprights. Fill the fastener holes, then sand and paint. To finish, add nonskid foam pads to the feet and the wall-side edge of each upright.



STYLING (OPPOSITE PAGE): INGRID LEESE • ILLUSTRATION: GREGORY NEMEC

buy it

What's the difference? Setup time and materials

$89 → *the basic model*

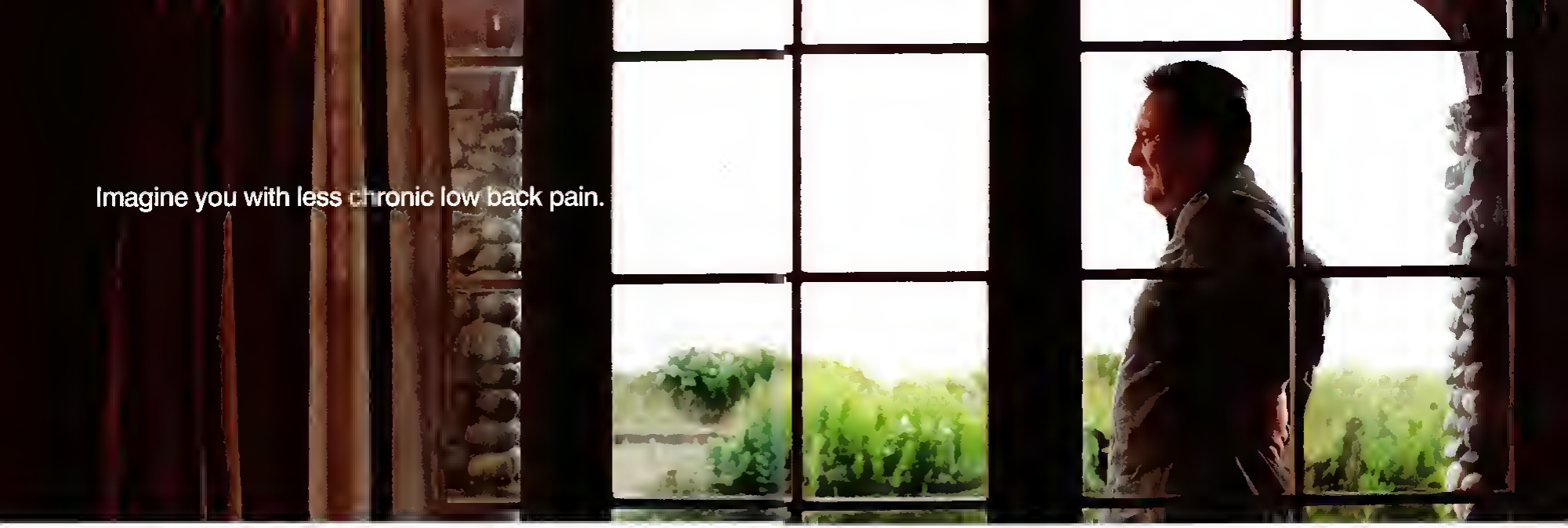
The uprights on this unit from Convenience Concepts require assembly, but the extra effort is a trade-off for an affordable price; walmart.com.

$172 → *the mid-range model*

This sleek wood-veneered bookshelf by Coaster Company of America has one-piece uprights made of medium-density fiberboard (MDF); homeclick.com.

$349 → *the luxury model*

Constructed of veneered poplar and MDF, this unit's deep, wide shelves welcome your bulkiest books and bric-a-brac; potterybarn.com.



Cymbalta can help.

Cymbalta is a once-daily, non-narcotic pain reliever
And it's not addictive

When taken once a day, every day, Cymbalta is proven to significantly reduce chronic low back pain.

You may have to rethink the way you treat your pain. You might be used to taking pain medications only after you feel your chronic low back pain getting worse. Managing this pain with Cymbalta is a little different. It's important to take Cymbalta every day, as prescribed by your doctor, to manage your pain over time.

Did you know that your body has a natural pain-suppressing system that can help regulate the amount of pain you feel? Although the exact way that Cymbalta works to reduce chronic low back pain is unknown, it is believed that Cymbalta helps lessen pain by enhancing the body's natural pain-suppressing system by increasing the activity of serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain and spinal cord.

Visit cymbalta.com or call 1-877-CYMBALTA (1-877-296-2258) to learn more. Ask your doctor about Cymbalta and a free trial offer.

Cymbalta is a prescription medication approved for the management of chronic musculoskeletal pain in people with chronic low back pain or chronic osteoarthritis pain.

Important Safety Information About Cymbalta

The most important information you should know about Cymbalta:

Antidepressants can increase suicidal thoughts and behaviors in children, teens, and young adults. Suicide is a known risk of depression and some other psychiatric disorders. Call your doctor right away if you have new or worsening depression symptoms, unusual changes in behavior, or thoughts of suicide. Be especially observant within the first few months of treatment or after a change in dose. Approved only for adults 18 and over.

Cymbalta® (duloxetine HCl) is not for everyone. Do not take Cymbalta if you:

- have recently taken a type of antidepressant called a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) or Mellaril® (thioridazine)
- have uncontrolled narrow-angle glaucoma (increased eye pressure)

Before taking Cymbalta, talk with your healthcare provider:

- about all your medical conditions, including kidney or liver problems, glaucoma, diabetes, seizures, or if you have bipolar disorder. Cymbalta may worsen a type of glaucoma or diabetes
- about all your prescription and nonprescription medicines. A potentially life-threatening condition has been reported when Cymbalta was taken with certain drugs for migraine, mood, or psychotic disorders
- if you are taking NSAID pain relievers, aspirin, or blood thinners. Use with Cymbalta may increase bleeding risk
- about your alcohol use

Important Safety Information (continued)

- about your blood pressure. Cymbalta can increase your blood pressure. Your healthcare provider should check your blood pressure prior to and while taking Cymbalta
- if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during therapy, or are breast-feeding

While taking Cymbalta, talk to your healthcare provider right away:

- if you have itching, right upper-belly pain, dark urine, yellow skin/eyes, or unexplained flu-like symptoms, which may be signs of liver problems. Severe liver problems, sometimes fatal, have been reported
- if you have high fever, confusion and stiff muscles, which may be symptoms of a potentially life-threatening condition
- if you have skin blisters, serious or peeling rash, hives, mouth sores, or any other allergic reaction. These may be serious, possibly life-threatening, skin reactions
- if you experience dizziness or fainting upon standing. This tends to occur in the first week or when increasing the dose, but may occur at any time during treatment
- before you stop Cymbalta or change your dose
- if you experience headache, weakness, confusion, problems concentrating, memory problems, or feel unsteady, which may be signs of low sodium levels
- if you develop problems with urine flow

Most common side effects of Cymbalta (this is not a complete list):

- nausea, dry mouth, sleepiness, fatigue, constipation, dizziness, decreased appetite, and increased sweating

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of Prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Other safety information about Cymbalta:

- Cymbalta may cause sleepiness and dizziness. Until you know how Cymbalta affects you, you should not drive a car or operate hazardous machinery.
- People age 65 and older who took Cymbalta reported more falls, some resulting in serious injuries.

How to take Cymbalta:

Take Cymbalta exactly as directed by your healthcare provider. Cymbalta should be taken by mouth. Do not open, break or chew capsule; it must be swallowed whole. Cymbalta can be taken with or without food.

Cymbalta is available by prescription only.

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See next page for additional information about Cymbalta, including Boxed Warning about antidepressants and risk of suicide.

Cymbalta® duloxetine HCl DELAYED RELEASE CAPSULES
20 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg

If you need assistance with prescription costs, help may be available. Visit www.pparx.org or call 1-888-4PPA-NOW.

Lilly

Information For Patients About Cymbalta

Please read this information carefully before you or your family member start taking Cymbalta (sim BALL tah), and each time your prescription is refilled. In case anything has changed or new information is available. This information is not meant to take the place of discussions with your healthcare provider. Talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist if there is something you do not understand or if you want to learn more about Cymbalta. Always follow your healthcare provider's instructions for taking Cymbalta.

What is the most important information I should know about Cymbalta?

Warning: In clinical studies, antidepressants increased the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults with depression and other psychiatric disorders. Anyone considering the use of Cymbalta or any other antidepressant must balance this risk with the clinical need. Short-term studies did not show an increase in the risk of suicidal thinking or behavior with antidepressants in adults older than 24; there was a reduction in risk with antidepressants in adults 65 and older. Suicide is a known risk of depression and some other psychiatric disorders. All patients starting antidepressant therapy should be monitored appropriately and observed closely. Families and caregivers should discuss with the healthcare provider right away any observations of worsening depression symptoms, suicidal thinking and behavior, or unusual changes in behavior. Cymbalta is not approved for use in patients under age 18.

Patients on antidepressants and their families or caregivers should watch for new or worsening depression symptoms, unusual changes in behavior, and thoughts of suicide, as well as for anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, difficulty sleeping, irritability, hostility, aggressiveness, impulsivity, restlessness, or extreme hyperactivity. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have thoughts of suicide or if any of these symptoms is severe or occurs suddenly. Be especially observant within the first few months of treatment or whenever there is a change in dose.

What is Cymbalta?

Cymbalta is a prescription medicine approved to treat multiple conditions: the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD), also called depression; generalized anxiety disorder (GAD); the management of fibromyalgia (FM); the management of diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain, also called diabetic nerve pain (DNP); and the management of chronic musculoskeletal pain due to chronic osteoarthritis pain and chronic low back pain.

Who should NOT take Cymbalta?

You should not take Cymbalta if:

- You are taking a type of antidepressant known as a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), such as Nardil® (phenelzine sulfate), Parnate® (tranylcypromine sulfate), or Emsam® (selegiline transdermal system). Using an MAOI with many prescription medicines, including Cymbalta, can cause serious or even life-threatening reactions. You must wait at least 14 days after you have stopped taking an MAOI before you take Cymbalta. You need to wait at least 5 days after you stop taking Cymbalta before you take an MAOI.
- You have uncontrolled narrow-angle glaucoma (increased eye pressure).
- You are taking an antipsychotic medicine known as Mellaril® (thioridazine).

What should I talk to my healthcare provider about before taking Cymbalta?

- About any medical conditions you may have, including kidney or liver problems, glaucoma, diabetes, seizures, or if you have bipolar disorder. Cymbalta may worsen a type of glaucoma or the control of blood sugar in some patients with diabetes.
- If you are taking or plan to take any prescription or nonprescription medicines, as Cymbalta may interact with some of these products.
- If you take medicines known as triptans, commonly prescribed for migraines or medicines for mood or psychotic disorders. A potentially life-threatening condition may occur if taken with Cymbalta.
- If you take NSAID pain relievers, aspirin, or blood thinners. Use with Cymbalta may increase risk of bleeding.
- About your alcohol use.
- About your blood pressure. Cymbalta can increase your blood pressure. Your healthcare provider should check your blood pressure prior to and while taking Cymbalta.
- If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding. (Lilly has a voluntary registry to collect information about Cymbalta use during pregnancy. To learn more, call 1-866-814-6975 or visit www.cymbaltapregnancyregistry.com)

What should I talk to my healthcare provider about while taking Cymbalta?

Call your healthcare provider right away

- If you have itching, right upper belly pain, dark urine, yellow skin/eyes, or unexplained flu-like symptoms, which may be signs of liver problems. Severe liver problems, sometimes fatal, have been reported.
- If you have high fever, confusion and stiff muscles, which may be signs of a potentially life-threatening condition.
- If you have skin blisters, serious or peeling rash, hives, mouth sores, or any other allergic reaction. These may be serious, possibly life-threatening, skin reactions.
- If you experience dizziness or fainting upon standing. This tends to occur in the first week or when increasing the dose, but may occur at any time during treatment, or when used in combination with certain other drugs.
- Before stopping Cymbalta or changing your dose. Stopping Cymbalta may result in symptoms including dizziness, nausea, or headache **(not a complete list)**. Your healthcare provider may wish to decrease the dose slowly.
- If you experience headache, weakness, confusion, problems concentrating, memory problems, or feel unsteady, which may be signs of low sodium levels.
- If you develop problems with urine flow.

What should I avoid while taking Cymbalta?

- Cymbalta may cause sleepiness and dizziness. Until you know how Cymbalta affects you, you should not drive a car or operate hazardous machinery.

What are the most common side effects of Cymbalta?

- In clinical studies for approved indications, the most common side effect was nausea.
- Other common side effects included dry mouth, sleepiness, fatigue, constipation, dizziness, decreased appetite, and increased sweating.

This is not a complete list of side effects. See Boxed Warning, "Who should NOT take Cymbalta?" and "What should I talk to my healthcare provider about while taking Cymbalta?" See prescribing information at www.cymbalta.com. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have questions or develop any side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

What else should I know if I'm 65 or older?

- People age 65 and older who took Cymbalta reported more falls, some resulting in serious injuries.

What should I do if I think I have taken an overdose of Cymbalta?

If you have taken more Cymbalta than prescribed for you, contact your healthcare provider, a hospital emergency room, or the nearest poison control center immediately.

How should I take Cymbalta?

- Take Cymbalta exactly as directed by your healthcare provider.
- Take Cymbalta by mouth. Do not open, break or chew capsule; swallow it whole.
- Cymbalta can be taken with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take only your regularly scheduled dose. Do not take more than the daily amount of Cymbalta prescribed for you.
- Talk with your healthcare provider before stopping Cymbalta or changing your dose.

General advice about Cymbalta

- Store Cymbalta at room temperature and out of reach of children.
- Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than the ones listed. This medication has been prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for another condition or give this drug to anyone else.
- If you have any questions or concerns, want to report any problems with the use of Cymbalta, or want more information, contact your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Additional information can be found at www.cymbalta.com.

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FROM THE TOH TV JOB SITE

In search of the perfect paint colors

The owners of the current TOH TV house used period illustrations, expert advice, and modern technology to find the right hues for their home By KEITH PANDOLFI • Photograph by WEBB CHAPPELL

Choosing exterior colors for your house can be daunting. Choosing them for a 125-year-old home that's smack-dab in the middle of a community obsessed with historically accurate color schemes can be downright intimidating. That's what John Stone and Sally Peterson, owners of the latest *TOH* TV project house, found out when selecting colors for their clapboard-and-shingle 1887 Queen Anne, in the Avon Hill neighborhood of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

When they bought the house for themselves and their two young daughters last fall, they agreed on a couple of things: that the dated, awkward interior needed to be revamped and modernized (see "Beyond exterior paint," page 76), and that the house's pale gray paint had to go. John, more concerned with interior carpentry than exterior color, was indifferent about the options. "He expressed an interest in green, and when I said no, he changed his

{before}

PHOTO (INSET): ANTHONY TIEUL

ABOVE. *TOH* TV general contractor Tom Silva (center) discusses paint options with architectural historian Susan Maycock (second from left) and owners John Stone and Sally Peterson. LEFT: The house was painted a light gray when John and Sally bought it. "This wasn't a common color for siding at the time this house was built," says Maycock.

tune to 'whatever you want,'" says Sally, who wanted a scheme that felt "fresh and exciting."

At the same time, her goal was to avoid overdoing it. "It seems like many houses from this period have every part of the facade painted a different color," she says. "Our house is pretty simple, and its details are straightforward—and we want to keep it that way."

To help them envision the right hues, the couple turned to Susan Maycock, an architectural historian and a color specialist with the Cambridge Historical Commission. Such experts are invaluable resources for owners who want to maintain the historic character of a house, says *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva. "In addition to being familiar with the history and customs of the neighborhood, these folks often have access to drawings, photos, or documents from when a house was built," he says.

For Sally and John's house, there was no such documentation. So Maycock dug up other resources, showing the couple paint-company brochures from the 1880s and 1890s with color illustrations of period houses. "The colors that were popular then were deep and rich—lots of golds, russets, and olives," says Maycock. There was a huge array of paint colors available at the time, thanks to the growing availability of ready-mixed paints that could be shipped via the railroads. "Pale colors, like the gray of this house, were very rare during the Victorian era," says Maycock. "Such colors didn't come back into vogue until the 1890s."

After hitting the books, Maycock presented a variety of color schemes. Her suggestions for the siding ranged from brick red to sage to a deep mustard yellow, each with a complementary color for trim-work and an accent color or two for movable parts, such as windows and doors.

Of all the options Maycock presented, Sally was most taken with the mustard scheme, which was paired with cream-colored trim and black accents. Wanting to get a better sense of what it would look like in real life, Sally had the colors applied to a digital picture of her house, using photo-editing software. "That was a big help," she says. "It gave us a sense of the direction we wanted to go in."

The result? "I didn't like it," Sally says. "It looked, well, sickly. Mustard may have been popular back then, but I wanted something brighter." Since there are houses of similar design in the neighborhood, she and John hit the streets in search of inspiration for a color scheme that suited their tastes.

That inspiration ended up coming from a nearby house, which happened to be painted yellow. "It was a much different hue than the mustard tone we'd been looking at," says Sally. "It was brighter and more cheerful, and to us it felt right for the house."

After she and John told their painter, Mauro Henrique, about the

THE RED SCHEME Color consultant Susan Maycock first suggested brick-red siding with taupe trim and black accents. But the homeowners weren't smitten. "The red felt a little too 'Victorian' for us," says Sally. Benjamin Moore's Baked Clay (1), Baked Cumin (2), and Black (3)

THE SAGE SCHEME John was a big fan of this green base color paired with off-white trim and red accents. Sally was not. "It was too muted," she says. Benjamin Moore's Rolling Hills (1), Grant Beige (2), and Cottage Red (3)

PHOTOS: ANTHONY TIEULI (PAINT SWATCHES); BRIAN HENNESSY/TIME INC. OTHER PHOTOS

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your next purchase of $999 or more.
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1 2 3

THE MUSTARD SCHEME Sally and John both liked this palette of deep mustard, cream and black, but wanted a yellow with a bit more pop. Benjamin Moore's Camel Back (1), Montgomery White (2), and Black (3)

place they'd seen, he snapped a photo of the house and took it to a local paint store for a color match. Then, armed with two slightly different color samples, he painted large swatches on the house's siding so that the couple could compare them. This is something Maycock always recommends, making sure that swatches are big enough (about 2 by 3 feet) to get a good idea of how each color will "read" in different light and weather conditions. "Computer visualizers are great, but screen colors aren't accurate," she says. "A color might look nice on your laptop, but once you put it on the siding, it's a whole different story."

Luckily, John and Sally's story has a happy ending. Though they didn't go with Maycock's recommendations, they say her advice helped tremendously, and they are confident that the palette they picked suits their home and neighborhood. The base-color yellow is warm and sunny, cream highlights corner boards, columns, and eaves; and black window sashes conform to the darker accents of Victorian times. "To mix things up, we might paint the front door red," says Sally. "But we're still trying to find the right shade."

1 2 3

THE WINNING YELLOW SCHEME A house in their neighborhood with a similar paint job led the couple to select this cheery palette. Benjamin Moore's Marblehead Gold (1), Navajo White (2), and Black (3)

Digital aids for choosing color

You don't need to hire a color expert or learn Photoshop to find the right hues for your house. If you have no clue where to begin, get inspired by our gallery of favorite exterior paint colors at thisoldhouse.com/oct2012. Then use one of the many free or low-cost online color visualizers out there. Nearly every paint company has one, and technological improvements have increased their usefulness dramatically in the past couple of years. Here are three we like.

> **PAINT YOUR PLACE** Behr's online helper lets you upload your own pictures, "paint" them to your liking, save them to a workbook, and order color samples right from the tool. Free, behr.com

> **COLORCLIX** Olympic's website tool and mobile app work hand in hand, so you can create and save color schemes at home or on the go. Can't decide on a favorite palette? Post the options to Facebook or other social-media sites and let your friends cast their votes. Free, olympic.com

> **COLORJIVE** This online tool catalogs the offerings of several major paint manufacturers, so you're not limited to a single company's palette when trying out colors on your photos. Free 30-day trial, then $12 per month, colorjive.com —K.P.

PHOTOS: ANTHONY TIELLI (PA NT GARY) BRIAN HENNY MAING; OHS TAL STUDIO

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Beyond exterior paint: Projects underway inside the house

A renovation as drastic as the exterior color change is taking shape in Cambridge—see the action via webcam at thisoldhouse.com/oct2012

RELOCATING THE KITCHEN
before The outdated kitchen was located inconveniently on the second floor. **in the works** This room is being moved to the first floor, where it will occupy an area that had been a bedroom facing the street. The island and range hood will be clad in wood.

CREATING A NEW LIVING AREA
before An oversize laundry room and a miniscule powder room occupied the rear of the first floor. **in the works** A comfy, bright living room is being built in this space, complete with floor to ceiling windows and a wood-burning fireplace.

PHOTOS: ANTHONY TIEULI

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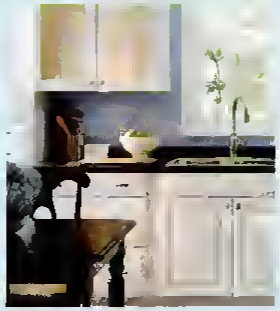

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How to install a driveway apron

Use handy paver mats to give your driveway some old-world charm

By CODY CALAMAIO • Photographs by KOLIN SMITH

Cost: $780 for a 12-foot wide driveway, plus rental equipment
Time. Two full 8-hour days
Difficulty: Moderately hard. The cobbles install with ease, but the prep is strenuous

You landscape your yard. Why not dress up your driveway? You can transform that plain patch of tarmac by tearing up the section above the curb and replacing it with materials that look like they were taken from the streets of Brussels itself. But instead of laying cobbles one by one, check out these time-saving manufactured concrete cobbles. They're produced in mats like those for mosaic backsplash tiles, and they install almost as easily. Follow along as senior technical editor Mark Powers shows you how.

For this project, we used Belgian cobbles in charcoal by Cobble Systems, $5 per square foot; cobblesystems.com. Or use ICA Systems permeable "rout" stone, $3.50 per square foot; icasystems-rout.com.

Day-to-day timeline

SATURDAY Measure and mark the driveway end remove the old paving (Steps 1 and 2)

SUNDAY Prepare the bed, lay the cobblestones, and grout (Steps 3–7)

tools

tape measure

nails to stake the chalk line in asphalt

chalk line

safety glasses

hearing protection

14-inch gas-powered concrete saw with segmented diamond blade

garden hose

hammer drill with chisel bit to break up the driveway surface

pick mattock to remove broken up chunks

work gloves for handling asphalt and cobbles

stakes

mason's line

bow rake

plate compactor to tamp base and pavers

side-cutting pliers

chalk stick

mason's chisel with hand guard

hand sledge

brick hammer

hand tamper to fix uneven spots during installation

duct tape

cement mixer

double-foam squeegee to spread grout into joints

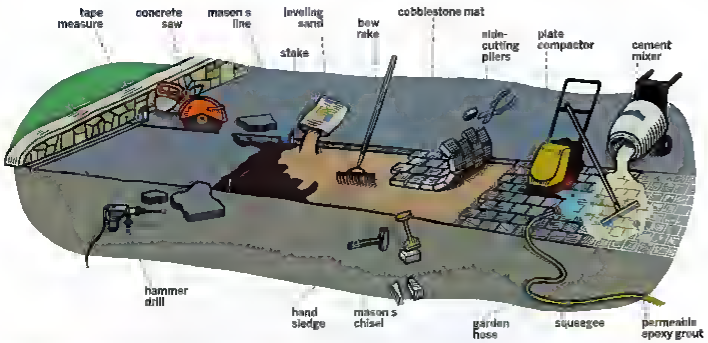
push broom to remove excess grout

materials

cobblestone mats with cast-in grid Have your supplier help determine the amount you need

permeable epoxy grout

leveling sand A ½-cubic foot bag covers 6 square feet at 1 inch deep



1. Lay out the apron

***A.* Measure the driveway.** A typical driveway apron extends 10 feet up from the street—in many places smack in the public right-of-way. So before you begin, check that your plan doesn't violate local codes or any association bylaws. If you're clear, measure 10 feet up from the street along the shortest side of the driveway and mark that spot; use a nail if your drive is asphalt or chalk if you have concrete.

***B.* Mark a cutline.** Tie a chalk line to the nail and run it to the other side of the driveway, perpendicular to its centerline. Snap the line. If your drive is concrete, enlist a helper to hold an end of the line at one mark, pull it taut to the other mark, and snap it. Now you have a cutline for the top of the apron.

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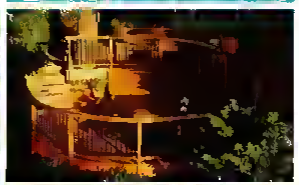

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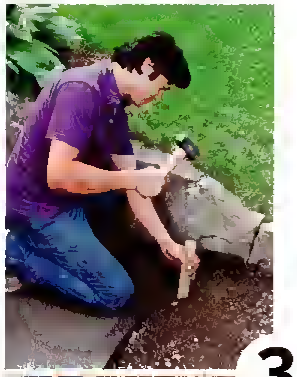
2. Excavate the bed

***A.* Cut the driveway.** Wearing safety glasses and hearing protection, use a concrete saw to score a shallow cut along your chalk line. Then attach a garden hose to the fitting on the saw and turn on a low flow of water to cool the blade and reduce dust as you cut all the way through the slab. Dip the blade into the line as you go rather than trying to force the saw forward. Gauge your cutting depth to avoid hitting the aggregate base.

***B.* Remove the waste.** Use a hammer drill to break up the remaining slab all the way to the street, then pry up the smaller chunks with a pick mattock. Most trash collectors won't take asphalt or concrete waste, but check with local paving companies to see if they will recycle it.



3. Prepare the bed

***A.* Check the depth.** The bed needs to be ½ inch deeper than the height of your cobbles (ours were 1⅝ inches tall, so we needed a 2¼ inch-deep bed). Drive stakes into each corner and at the midpoints along the bed's width. Tie mason's lines between the pairs of stakes so that they run parallel to the centerline of the driveway. The lines should be taut, with one end flush with the surface of the driveway and the other end flush with the street. Measure down from the lines at multiple points to determine how much you need to excavate or add to the bed. If you need to build it up, use aggregate to do so, then compact it.

***B.* Add leveling sand.** Once your bed is at the proper depth, add a ¾ inch layer of leveling sand. Use a bow rake to spread it evenly across the bed, as shown. Double-check your work by setting a cobble along the edge. It should stick up about ¼ inch above the driveway, but don't worry—they'll be flush when you're done.

***C.* Compact the leveling sand.** Run a plate compactor over the sand to make it packed and smooth. You'll know you're finished when you can walk on the surface without leaving footprints.

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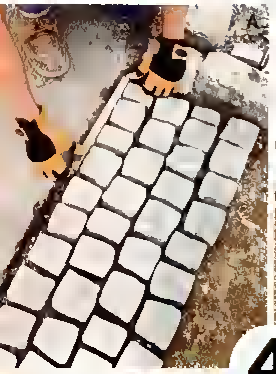

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4. Lay the cobbles

A. **Begin laying the cobblestone mats.** Starting at a corner on the edge farthest from the street, lay the first cobblestone mat. Use a stake as a spacer between the mat and the driveway edge for the grout, and keep the mat parallel with that edge—not with the side of the driveway, which may lan out. You'll fill out the sides later with individual cobbles.

B. **Interlace the mats.** Use side-cutting pliers to remove the half cobbles from the nylon grid on the open side of the first mat. Then remove the half cobbles on both side edges of the next mat. Lay the second mat so that it interlocks with the first. Continue this process until you reach the other side of the driveway. Snip off any cobbles that don't fit against the side.

C. **Continue the courses.** As you begin laying the second course, make sure it goes down parallel with the first. Stagger your courses so that no two rows of cobbles have joints that line up. Continue laying mats until the entire area is covered.

5. Fit the edges

A. **Cleave the edge cobbles.** The mats likely won't end perfectly at the sides, in which case you'll need to fill in with half cobbles or with custom-cut whole ones. To make a custom cut, detach any whole cobble that doesn't fit, and use a chalk stick to mark a cutline. Wearing safety glasses, place the cobble on a scrap board, set a mason's chisel on the chalk line, and tap it with a hand sledge to score it along that line. Then set the mason's chisel on the cutline with part of the blade hanging off and angle it toward the waste side, as shown. Strike the chisel with the sledge to break the cobble. Chip away any jagged edges with a brick hammer. Repeat with every cobble that doesn't fit.

B. **Fill the gaps.** Continue cutting and fitting cobbles along the sides of the apron as needed. Be sure to leave enough space for a grout line on all sides.

5

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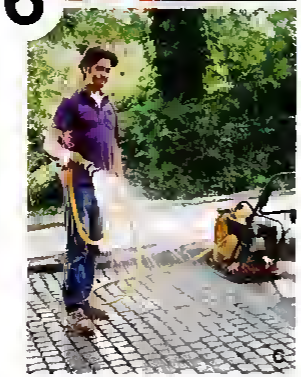


6. Prep for grouting

***A.* Compact the cobbles.** Mist the cobbles with water and run the plate compactor over the surface to settle them into the leveling sand. Check to make sure that the cobbles are now flush with the asphalt and the edge of the street, and that there are no high or low spots on the apron. If you see a spot that needs adjusting, lift up that mat and either excavate or add more leveling sand, then compact it with a hand tamper. Apply a strip of duct tape along the perimeter of the apron to prevent these surfaces from being stained by the grout in the next step.

***B.* Mix the grout.** We used the permeable epoxy grout recommended for this cobblestone system. If you do the same, combine the ingredients in a cement mixer and run it for 2 to 3 minutes, until the grout becomes viscous. You could also use polymeric sand or washed ¼-inch gravel as permeable alternatives, but stay away from cementitious grout—it will crack.

***C.* Prep the surface.** Spray the cobbles with a hose to wet the entire surface. This will prevent the grout from sticking to the top of the cobbles.

see how it's done

Scan this bar code with your smartphone to watch a step-by-step video of this project. Or go to **thisoldhouse.com/oct2012**

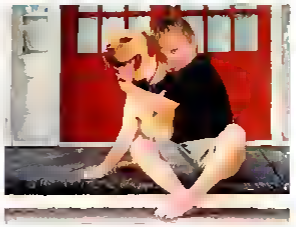
7

7. Grout the cobbles

***A.* Pour the grout.** Dump a portion of the mixer's contents—only as much as you can spread in about two minutes, as the grout will begin to harden after that—onto the wet cobbles.

***B.* Spread the grout on a diagonal.** Using a double-foam squeegee, spread the grout on a diagonal over the cobbles to fill the joints evenly and remove any excess. Then, just before the grout hardens, reach in from the edges with a push broom to clear away any crumbs of grout. Allow at least 5 hours for the grout to cure before walking on the apron and 24 to 72 hours before driving on it. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 138



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Let's Rebuild America!

In 2008, Anders Lewendal, a contractor in Bozeman, Montana, saw half the builders in his community go out of business. At a local homebuilders' association meeting one night that year, talk quickly turned to how members might build efficient, affordable homes, and Lewendal remembers thinking, "Normally our industry leads our economy in getting out of recessions, but not this time."

Afterward, he and his son Jake, 23, who runs his own construction business in Bozeman, figured there must be a way to help the industry recover, without government assistance. Says Anders, "I thought, 'What if we purchased more American-made building materials and compared their price and value to foreign products?'"

Since the typical American home uses anywhere from 40% to 75% American-made products, Lewendal, 52, who earned a degree in economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara, calculated that just 5% more could make a difference. In fact, if every builder in the country upped the American-made ante by that much, it would add 220,000 construction jobs and $14 billion to the U.S. economy.

Then he projected the concept a step further. "What if I built a house using 100% American-made materials?" In other words, could he, with his son's and his subcontractors' help, create an all-American home?

The All-American Home

To prove his point, in late 2011 Lewendal built a 2,280-square-foot, modern-style, custom home on a 6,000-square-foot lot in Bozeman using American-made material and products—rather, using "predominantly American made" products as he takes pains to point out, noting that some components, like microchips, were unavoidably imported.

"What if I built a house using 100% American-made materials?"

— Anders Lewendal

The All-American Home, as it has come to be called, took about eight months to finish at 2% to 3% over normal construction costs (90% of the materials cost no more than foreign-made products). It was a price the client was happy to pay.

"At best, I thought my local homeowners association might say, 'Oh, that's pretty cool,' and that maybe we'd build a few homes and create a few jobs in Bozeman," Lewendal says now. (That would have been fine with him.) "But it didn't work out that way."

Anders Lewendal's "All American Home" in Bozeman, Montana

Construction Matters

The Montana contractor's concerns for his industry are as timely now as they were four years ago. In a struggling economy with lackluster GDP growth, declining exports and a tight job market, construction very much matters.

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Let's Rebuild America!

According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), residential investment in housing averages roughly 5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with housing services adding another 12% to 13% under normal market conditions. The industry also brings money to communities by increasing property tax bases, which in turn generate revenue to support schools and other facilities and services. The NAHB estimates that a typical new single-family home generates $23,000 in state and local taxes, and $67,000 in federal taxes. That was true—at least until the housing market collapsed.

"Construction workers have been among the Americans hit hardest over the past few years," President Obama said last year in urging Congress to pass part of the American Jobs Act.

Each new single-family home built in the U.S. creates three jobs across a range of building industries. – NAHB

A healthy U.S. construction industry, he and many believe, is crucial to restoring jobs and reinvigorating the economy. New housing has also become a key component in the "Made in America" movement that is increasingly being embraced by politicians, private citizens and the media.

Last spring, Anders Lewendal's Bozeman house was featured on ABC News' "Made in America" series, hosted by Diane Sawyer. The night before Part 1 aired, a network staffer called the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), an international business consulting firm, to verify the builder's 5% projections.

"They were supportable," says Justin Rose, a principal in BCG's Chicago office, who helped crunch the numbers and co-authored the report, "Made in America, Again: Why Manufacturing Will Return to the U.S.," released in August of 2011. If anything, he says, Lewendal's numbers were low.

"Based on the calculations we'd done, for roughly every 5% added, you get to somewhere around $4 billion of incremental value that's made in America," Rose asserts. "I think that supports something like 60,000 to 65,000 jobs in direct manufacturing, but then there's a whole ecosystem of services and jobs. What we found in our research is that the multiplier is somewhere near three to one—so for every one direct job there are three incremental, secondary jobs that are created, and that's close to 1 million. Dollar-wise, it would add roughly $25 billion to economic output."

NAHB researchers also did the math and came to the same conclusion. Each new single-family home built in the U.S. creates three jobs across a range of building industries—lumber, concrete, lighting fixtures and heating and cooling equipment, among others. Additional jobs are created through financing and real estate transactions.

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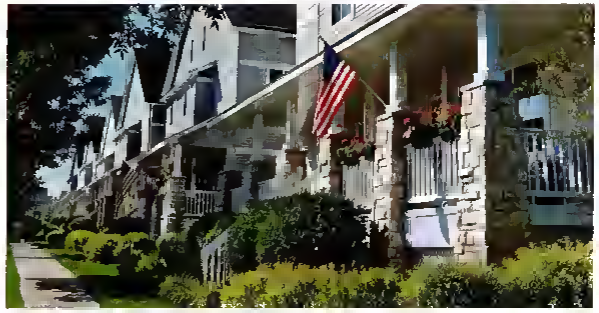
Let's Rebuild America!



But jobs aren't an issue just for out-of-work contractors, as many recent college graduates are coming to understand.

"What it comes down to is the fact that my generation is going to run the show one day, and we need to educate ourselves and get more involved," notes Jake Lewendal, who runs Sustainable Building Solutions Inc. while working with his father. "Our All-American Home is an example for our industry, but it also demonstrates how people can make a difference. It's an easy way to understand the impact every one of us can have.

"We're all trying to survive," he adds, "but we also need to think about our communities, our nation and the environment. If each of us shifted just 5% of our purchases to American-made products, it would have a direct impact on people my age."

"We're all trying to survive, but we also need to think about our communities, our nation and our environment."

— Jake Lewendal

Why U.S. Manufacturing Matters

Creating jobs and contributing millions to the economy will require not just buying more American goods, but manufacturing more of them on U.S. soil. According to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), manufacturing supports an estimated 17 million high-value jobs. While that number represents just 9% of the workforce, the contribution those jobs makes is disproportionately higher than other sectors. 12% of GDP and nearly 70% of R&D spending—key to innovation and growth. In fact, every dollar in value created in manufacturing contributes $1.40 to other sectors, according the U.S. Department of Labor.

And yet, despite having workers with the highest productivity in the world, the last decade has seen a trend toward outsourcing and off-shoring production overseas where inexpensive labor and lax environmental laws have produced cheap products and dissatisfied consumers.

It's a trend that seems to be reversing, according tha Boston Consulting Group, whose report, "Made in America, Again: Why Manufacturing Will Return to the U.S.," indicates that China's manufacturing cost advantage over the U.S. is shrinking fast. Within five years, rising Chinese wages, higher U.S. productivity and a weaker dollar will close the cost gap between the U.S. and China for many goods consumed in North America. And by 2015, the report concludes, when transportation, duties, supply chain risks, industrial real estate, and other costs are fully accounted for, manufacturing in some parts of the U.S. will be just as economical as manufacturing in China.

That will help American contractors—in theory

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"I think the 5% concept is a positive, but it's hard to define," says Stephen Melman, director of economic services at NAHB offices in Washington, D.C. The Association represents 140,000 members. "What it it's made in America but by a company headquartered someplace else? All these things that seem simple are really kind of complicated."

Melman's right. For the Lewendals and their subs, it took some tough digging to identify "predominantly" American-made materials and products. Anders recalls, "Our subcontractors put an incredible amount of effort into researching on the internet, making phone calls, confirming that the products we wanted to use were actually made here." Contractors and consumers alike, he suggests, can do the same by looking at manufacturing labels rather than only price tags.

Lewendal's All-American Home is sided with recycled steel from Bridger Steel in Billings, Montana, and fiber-cement board from CertainTeed in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, trimmed with MiraTEC fascia from CMI in Chicago, and roofed with asphalt shingles from GAF in Wayne, N.J.

Eventually, materials came from 150 U.S. manufacturers in 40 states ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small rural shops. A number of them have been in business here for centuries.

Vintage Homes' version of the All-American Home

Trend: The Five-or-More Percenters Club

In a ripple effect from ABC's "Made in America" series, nearly a dozen other builders across the country have taken up Lewendal's 5%-or-better challenge. Inspired by his model All-American Home, they are doing their part to support local and national manufacturers, creating jobs for fellow citizens and revitalizing their local economies.

In Chesapeake, Virginia, T.E. Jones of Vintage Homes built the state's first All-American Home in July of this year after his father sent him a link to a story about the Lewendals' project. "Honestly, I had no idea what I was getting myself into," he said at a "Made in America" event hosted by the Tidewater Builders Association, which had commissioned Jones to build the house for its annual Homearama tour of houses. "But I knew it was going to be a tremendous honor, a tremendous challenge and a tremendous learning experience."

Jones estimates that the 2,778-square-foot, plantation-style house used 99% American-made materials, which increased construction costs by about 3%.

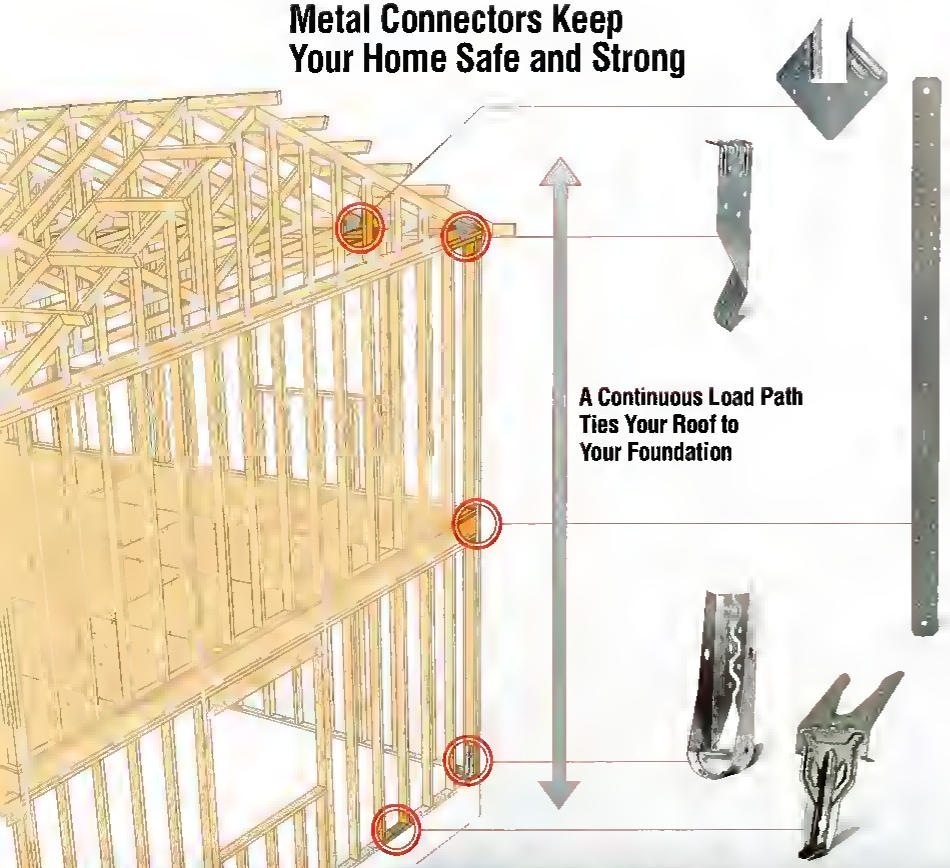
In Tyler, Texas, Gary Bayless of Bayless Custom Homes, normally builds houses composed of 30% to 40% American-made products, due to cost and availability. Then he saw the ABC "Made in America" special at a local homebuilders' association meeting, and called up Anders Lewendal, who shared his list of suppliers.

This June, Bayless finished a traditional 2,500-square-foot spec house in nearby Bullard, Texas, in which everything was American-made but the ceiling fans. "A lot of the motors are made in Italy or China, though they're assembled in America," he notes. "Anders, because he's in Montana, didn't have that problem, but in Texas everybody has a ceiling fan in every room."

The difference in cost? Again, about 3%, according to Bayless. But the slightly higher all-American price tag on the house wasn't a deterrent.

"We had it on our homebuilders association's Parade of Homes last year," Bayless says, "and a lot of people came to see it just because it was made in America. The response was overwhelming." The house sold in six weeks, compared with a typical market time in that area of two to four months.

Metal Connectors Keep Your Home Safe and Strong



Many people don't think about the structural frame of their house, but as we've seen in recent years with the number of hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes, it's important to build or retrofit your home to resist Mother Nature. A construction practice known as a "continuous load path" is used to tie the structural frame of a house together using metal connectors, and helps keep your home safe and strong. Simpson Strong-Tie is the recognized and trusted brand for metal connectors among construction professionals and DIYers, and is available at local hardware stores nationwide.

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The Texas builder is currently working on a $500,000 custom All American Home for a couple who had seen the Bullard house on the local news. Bayless says he received some 20 inquiries following the program, including five from other builders interested in doing the same thing.

"I see that people do care about job creation," he says, "and the quality of American-made products over foreign counterparts."

Quality Over Cost

Buying and building American does more than support U.S. contractors and manufacturers; however. It also benefits American consumers.

For one thing, U.S. workers in construction and manufacturing are among the best trained, the best-equipped and the highest-paid in the world. Those factors tend to boost productivity and efficiency.

Working conditions in the states are also superior to those found in many foreign countries. "You and I would have an issue if there was a plant down the street where they were mistreating their workers," says Lewendal. "We'd say something and we'd support them. The more I study it, it's stunning how poorly so many foreign workers are paid and how bad the conditions are."

Consumers also benefit from American-manufactured goods and processes which are known for their quality, their durability and, increasingly, their adherence to stricter environmental standards and codes.

"You don't you have to look too far beyond recent high-profile headlines about the environmental safety of drywall produced in China," says Justin Rose at Boston Consulting Group. "It calls into question the overall quality of the products."

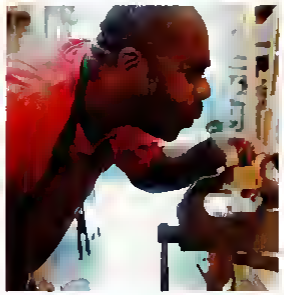
The biggest exporter of goods to the U.S., China is frequently cited for environmental and safety issues. In May of 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission released a list of the top ten manufacturers of drywall whose products were found to emit high levels of hydrogen sulfide, a metal corrosive. All ten were located in China.

"There aren't a lot of issues these days that draw bipartisan support, but this is one of them." – Congressman Chris Murphy

The building trades commonly use imported nails because they're relatively inexpensive, but they also tend to jam nail guns. Instead, Lewendal's crew found high-quality nails made by Maze Nails in the company's Peru—Peru, Illinois, that is—factory.

Maze nail-gun nails cost $5 more a box than the Chinese product, but they don't jam, thus saving time and reducing waste. The crew went with Maze.

"There's a groundswell of recognition that we need to be conscious about what we buy, both in the public and private sectors," says Chris Murphy, a Democratic Congressman from Connecticut who is a strong proponent of American-made and -built. "When we can, we need to try to pay attention to where things are made. Often, if you ask for an American-made product, you're going to find that it's not more expensive than the foreign-made product. You just have to ask."



Government Initiatives

When President Ronald Reagan proclaimed December as Made in America Month in 1986, he was echoing a cry heard from contractors and manufacturers in the 1970s.

Now, as "Buy Local" and "Buy American" resound in cities and towns across the

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Product innovations have led to countless improvements in home construction, including better ways to protect homes from earthquakes, high winds and hurricanes. A construction practice known as a "continuous load path" is used to connect the structural frame of a house (roof, walls, floors and foundation) using metal connectors. This practice has saved thousands of homes and buildings from damage.

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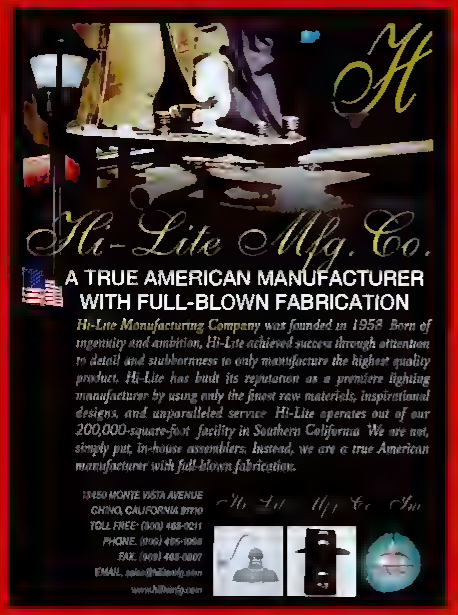
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Let's Rebuild America!

country. U.S. construction jobs and American-made materials are once again getting the attention of politicians—this time on both sides of the aisle.

"There aren't a lot of issues these days that draw bipartisan support," says Congressman Murphy, "but this is one of them. Republicans and Democrats alike are losing jobs across the country when manufacturing goes overseas."

Murphy has sponsored two bills currently before Congress: the 21st Century Buy American Act and the American Jobs Matter Act. Both are aimed at getting the federal government to purchase American goods and services before awarding contracts to overseas companies.

"If the federal government wants to preach to private companies that they should purchase things here in America, then the government should do the same thing," Murphy states. "One of the biggest problems that construction companies find when trying to buy American is the lack of availability of product, and that lack is compounded by the fact that the federal government has been part of the problem in putting small manufacturers out of business."

In order to promote his Buy American initiative, Murphy, who believes the U.S. is on the verge of a reindustrialization, teamed up in 2010 with Congressman Walter Jones (Rep—NC) to form the Buy American Caucus, which further supports strengthening domestic government procurement laws.

"My argument is that it's in the government's best interest to buy American because it creates taxpayers who will help us fund the government," says Murphy. "I think the same argument can be made in the private sector. It's in the homebuilders' best interest to buy American because it will create more jobs and thus more homebuyers. So there's a self-interest on behalf of both the government and the home building industry that hopefully will result in more American purchasing."

The Road Ahead

Anders Lewendal's All American Home has been submitted to the *Guinness Book of World Records* for a home produced with the highest percentage of product of national origin.

But he doesn't expect everyone to build 100% American—just 5% more. His goal is to make Americans (home builders and owners alike) more aware of the fact that buying American-made products over foreign-made ones can make a difference.

"It just plain old makes sense. We can rebuild America 5% at a time if we work together." —Anders Lewendal

"The All American Home is a placeholder for the idea that reallocating some of our purchases to U.S. products is pretty easy," he says. "Five percent would add 3 million new jobs. Imagine what 10% would do? Ending this recession comes to mind."

Manufacturers agree. "Buying products made in the U.S.A. and supporting American manufacturing has a much bigger effect than most people think."

says GAF's Doug Beck. "Manufacturing can be the heart, the foundation, the granite holding up many communities."

Soon it may be easier than ever to find American-made materials and products. Last year, Lewendal father and son launched **theallamericanhome.com** as a resource for home builders and homeowners. The site lists hundreds of products by name, by manufacturer or supplier, and by location in the U.S. In addition, a "5% Club Registry" lists hundreds of companies and individuals who have vowed to reallocate 5% of their spending to U.S.-made products.

Now the two are working on a phone app that will make those American-made products and suppliers readily available on the construction site or in the store.

"It just plain old makes sense," Anders says with a mixture of American practicality and can-do know-how. "We can rebuild America 5% at a time if we work together."

Do you support the Buy American movement?
We'd like to hear from you. Email us at BuyAmerican@theallamericanhome.com

Inspiring Spruce-ups on a Shoestring

Just because you have to **stretch your home-improvement dollars** doesn't mean you need to scrimp on style. Coming up, resourceful TOH readers show how to turn a dated cook space into a handsome farmhouse kitchen, plus five more standout projects—all by trading sweat equity for green

By Megan Baker
PHOTOGRAPH BY WENDELL T. WEBBER
STYLING BY ANNA MOLVIK

{ before }

Bright farmhouse-kitchen redo

Macksi and Cody Warner *Marathon, N.Y.*

Macksi and Cody Warner loved everything about their late 1800s home in rural New York State—except, that is, for its chopped-up floor plan with tiny rooms. The worst was the kitchen, which Cody says was little more than a narrow hallway lined with rickety cabinets. The couple's dramatic fix: Knock out the wall separating the kitchen from the adjoining dining room to create one open space. They then started from scratch with new base cabinets and open shelves in lieu of bulky uppers. Furthering the airy feel, they exposed and whitewashed the original ceiling beams.

Though Macksi and Cody hired an Amish neighbor to build the poplar cabinets, they kept costs down by installing and painting the units. They also put up a counter-to-ceiling beadboard backsplash, as well as the open shelves made with stock parts from the home center. Taking pride of place below the windows is a secondhand enameled-cast-iron sink that the couple scored for just $30. "Our kitchen is so welcoming now," says Macksi. "For years I was compiling ideas of what I wanted, and this came out exactly as I imagined."

THE PROJECT TALLY

Demolished the wall between the kitchen and the dining room	$0
Exposed and whitewashed the ceiling beams and drywalled the recesses	$130
Installed custom cabinets and a cherry butcher block top	$1,500
Painted the cabinets, walls and floor (not shown)	$210
Added cabinet knobs and pulls from the home center	$35
Put up a beadboard backsplash and open shelves made from pine planks and prefab corbels	$180
Dropped in a vintage double-bowl cast-iron sink	$30
Hooked up a new faucet	$149
Total:	**$2,234**

Staircase-turned-showpiece

Marie Hespen *Saint Charles, Mo*

THE ENCLOSED STAIRCASE IN Marie Hespen's foyer made the room feel like a tunnel—not an ideal place to greet houseguests. To open it up and create a brighter, more welcoming entry, Marie demolished the offending wall and replaced it with a new balustrade made from shapely white-painted wood spindles and a handrail and newel stained jet black. She then ripped out the wall-to-wall carpeting covering the treads and stained the bare wood to match the new red-oak floors that she'd recently installed throughout her home's main living area. Using a *TOH* tutorial (at thisoldhouse.com/oct2012) as a guide, Marie topped the stairs with a floral-patterned runner that she cut to size and stapled in place. To draw the eye up and riff on the vertical lines of the spindles, she striped the wall below the new balustrade with a warm beige paint. Marie couldn't be happier with the results, but it's her family members whose opinions she values most. "My husband, Scott, will tell anybody he meets about the time he came home from work and his wife had torn out the wall," she says. "He's so proud of my work."

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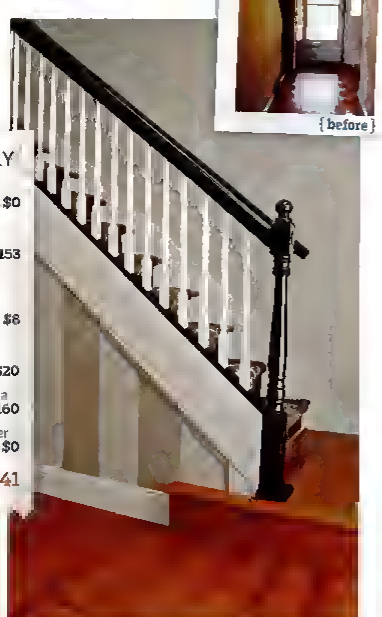


BEFORE Walled-up stairs made for an inhospitable foyer. AFTER An open balustrade and new stair runner make it welcoming.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Demolished the drywall using a handsaw and elbow grease	$0
Built a balustrade using stock stair parts (spindles, a handrail, and a newel)	$153
Painted the spindles with leftover white trim paint; bought black stain for the rail and newel	$8
Stained the stair treads to match the new red oak floor in the foyer	$20
Replaced the old carpeting with a patterned stair runner	$160
Created a faux-striped wallpaper effect using leftover paint	$0

Total: $341

Vintage bath revamp

Katherine and Conan Fugit *Wichita, Kans.*

WHAT BEGAN WITH WATER DRIPPING through the kitchen ceiling ended with a gut renovation of the main bathroom in Katherine and Conan Fugit's 1917 Colonial Revival. A leaky toilet and tub were to blame, but once the floor and walls were opened up to make repairs, the couple just kept going. They replaced vinyl squares with porcelain hex tiles underfoot and mounted new beadboard on the walls. A little-used linen closet became a shower stall that they lined with subway tile and fitted with a glass door. Out went the old tub in favor of a salvaged cast-iron claw-foot. And instead of the existing Grecian-inspired sink, the couple plumbed a vintage pedestal that they got for just $60 on Craigslist. The sink's cross-handle faucet taps were a lucky find at a local antiques store. To house towels and toiletries, Katherine reworked a thrift-store media cabinet. With a new painted finish, glass panels in the upper doors, and robe hooks on one side, it's the perfect bathroom storage piece. "I'm all for slow decorating," says Katherine. "I want to find the exact right thing at the exact right price." And even though the remodel took a year to complete, she says, "it was worth it."

LEFT A subway-tiled shower with a glass door takes the place of an old closet, and a modified media cabinet stores bath essentials in style.

BEFORE The checkered vinyl floor and fancy repro fixtures clashed with the couple's clean-lined style. BOTTOM The classic hex-tile floor sets the stage for a period claw-foot tub and pedestal sink.

{ before }

THE PROJECT TALLY

Tore out old vinyl flooring, plaster walls, and beadboard	$0
Hung drywall and added new beadboard wainscoting, then painted	$618
Installed subway tile in the shower and hex tile on the floor	$950
Added new shower fixtures and a glass door	$160
Put in a salvaged cast-iron claw-foot tub and painted the outside	$115
Installed a vintage pedestal sink and faucet	$77
Refinished the original wood door	$40
Made the mirror over the sink using an old frame and cutting mirror glass to fit	$43
Relocated the toilet and the brass sconces from other rooms in the house to the bath	$0
Refreshed a thrift-store cabinet with new glass door panels, hooks, and paint	$125
Put in push-button switches and brass switch plates	$56

Total: $2,181

PHOTOS: (BATH) NATHAN KINGMAN; STYLING: SUSAN VICTORIA

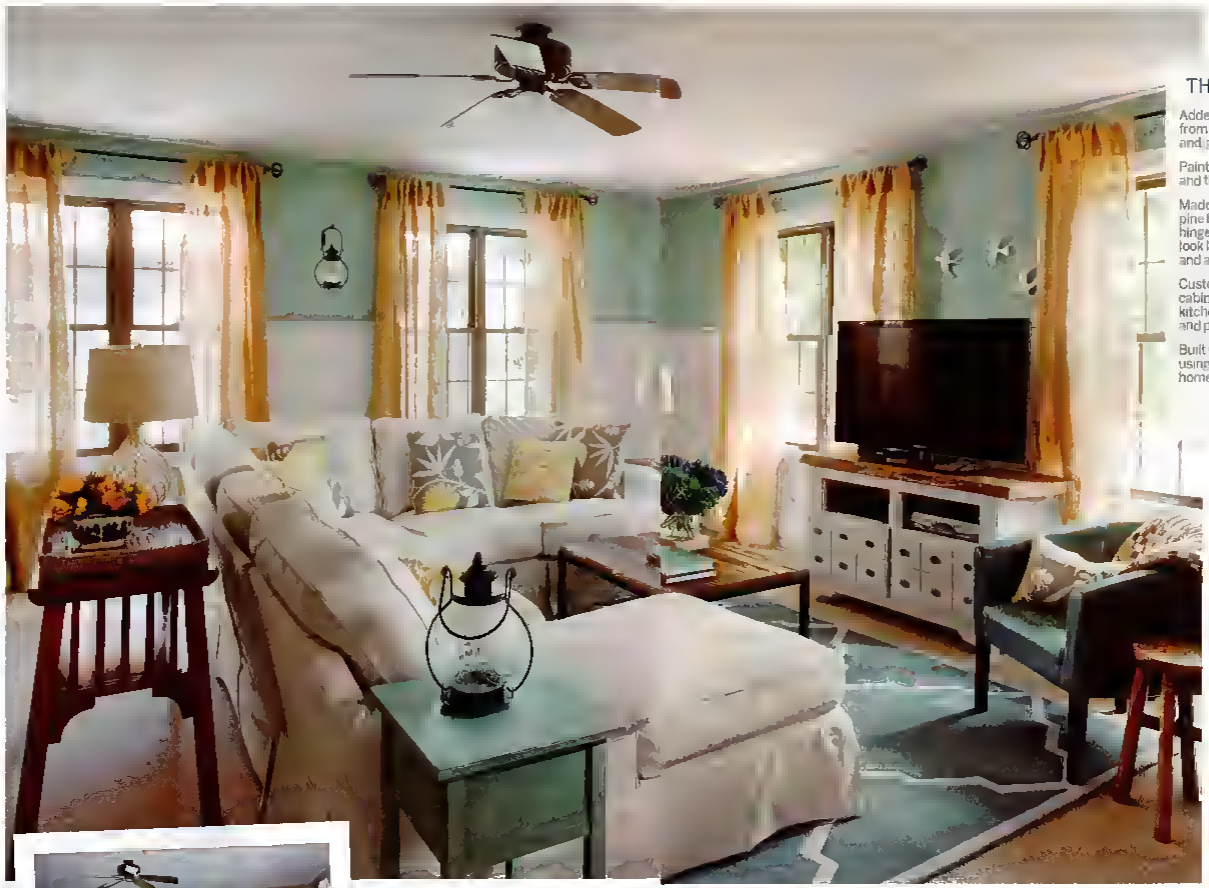
Inviting living room makeover

Jessica Bruno *Sutton Mass*

THE CHALLENGE FOR JESSICA BRUNO was creating a living room in her 1960s Colonial-style home where all seven resident members of her four-generation family could comfortably gather at the same time. Even more than supplying lots of seating, she wanted to create a cozy and serene effect in the 500-square-foot space. Jessica started by nailing up wainscoting made from horizontal tongue-and-groove pine planks topped with a 2-inch-deep plate rail. She painted the paneling white and the wall above it a watery blue-green.

Next on Jessica's list was to customize an existing peninsula-style divider that separated the living room from an adjoining area. She installed shelves in the center, and beadboard cabinet doors to enclose what had been an open recess. On the wall alongside the divider, she added open shelves for extra storage and display space.

Her final touch was to build a media cabinet for the family's flat-screen TV. It has hinged doors decorated with wood squares that mimic the look of small apothecary drawers, faux knobs made from turquoise beads, and a reclaimed-barn-wood top. The cabinet has become the focal point in what's now a warm and welcoming living room. "Everyone hangs out in here," says Jessica. "We all fight over the choice seats."



{before}

BEFORE Unadorned beige walls and the lack of a focal point made the living room feel blah and haphazard. AFTER Crisp white wainscoting and blue-green wall paint make it bright and cheery, while a handcrafted media cabinet makes movie viewing the main event.

PHOTOS BY GIRITH; STYLING KELLY MARJULL

THE PROJECT TALLY

Added wainscoting made from 6½-inch-wide tongue-and-groove pine planks $222

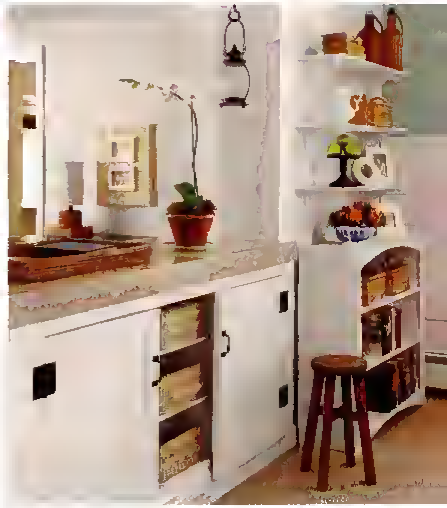
Painted the wainscoting and the walls above $110

Made a media cabinet using pine boards for the frame, hinged cabinet doors made to look like apothecary drawers, and a barn-wood top $72

Customized a room divider with cabinet doors left over from a kitchen reno, new hardware, and pine shelves $31

Built wall-mounted shelves using leftover pine and home-center corbels $12

Total: $447



RIGHT An existing room divider was fitted with beadboard cabinet doors and a group of shelves with baskets to keep sewing supplies and other hobby gear hidden from view.

BEFORE Three twin-size beds took up much of the room's total area

{ before }

Space-saving bunk beds

Nikki and Caleb Grandy *San Tan Valley, Ariz.*

WITH FOUR KIDS under the age of 7, Nikki and Caleb Grandy have had to make many of the rooms in their home do double duty. For their three boys' shared bedroom, that meant carving out space for both sleeping and playing. So rather than dedicate precious square footage to three twin beds, the couple created a sleek wall of built-in bunks that leaves the floor clear for spreading out toys and roughhousing. Nikki and Caleb started by building the bunk beds' 2×4 frame, which they anchored into the walls and ceiling. Next the couple sheathed the structure with medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and trimmed its face with molding for a paneled look. Crown at the top, baseboard at the bottom, and beadboard inside to the built-in bunks with the room's existing molding and wainscoting. To separate the two sets of bunks and offer safe passage to the top level, Nikki and Caleb built an easy-to-climb staircase. They left the space under the stairs open to serve as a storage area for stuffed animals and a secret hangout for hide-and-seek. Four nautical sconces, just $12 each, are wired separately so that the boys can control their own lights. "My kids have 14 cousins on my side and 10 more on my husband's, who all live pretty close," says Nikki. "When those kids come over, they immediately head to the bunk-bed room."

THE PROJECT TALLY

Created the 2×4 bunk bed frame and sheathed it with MDF	$350
Detailed the bunks with astragal and crown molding, baseboards, and beadboard panels	$61
Painted the bunks white and stained the stair treads	$30
Installed four sconces, one for each bed	$48
Reused the kids' twin mattresses and bought a fourth from a neighbor	$20

Total: $509

ABOVE Hangout-friendly bunks maximize the floor area so that the bedroom can also serve as a play space. RIGHT Each bunk has its own toggle-switch sconce, hinged baseboards conceal toy storage, and trundles for overnight guests.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (THIS SPREAD) CHRISTIAN BLEIK; STYLING: CHRISTIN BANG

Fireplace face-lift

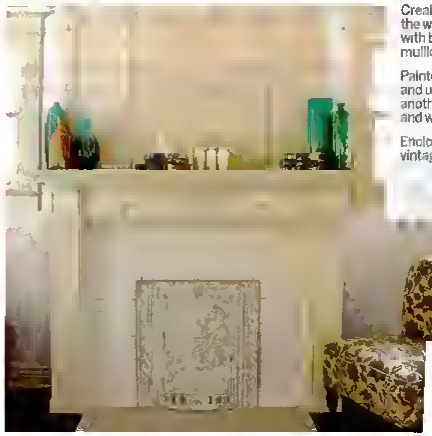
John and Casey Spencer *Tampa, Fla.*

THE NONWORKING BRICK FIREPLACE in John and Casey Spencer's 1920s bungalow was more of an eyesore than an eye-catcher. It lacked a mantel, and hiring a carpenter to custom-build one was beyond the couple's budget. Their solution? Make one using off-the-shelf supplies. For the mantel's pilaster-style legs, John boxed the corners of the existing surround with MDF boards secured to the brick with construction adhesive. He then detailed the smooth surface of the legs with astragal molding and used baseboard to create plinth blocks at the bottom. Topping the legs is an MDF frieze and a mantel shelf that's trimmed with a two-part cornice made from crown and egg-and-dart quarter-round moldings. Wood appliqués adhered to the face of the frieze add vintage charm. To give the fireplace more prominence in the room, Casey designed and Jon installed faux paneling above the mantel by securing baseboard and mullion moldings directly to the wall with construction adhesive and finishing nails. A few coats of cream-color paint unite all the disparate parts. The couple's finishing touch was to enclose the firebox with a Victorian-era cast-iron front that they found at an antiques fair. "Everyone thinks the mantel is original, and that we just restored it," says Casey. "Our fireplace is the centerpiece of the house."

THE PROJECT TALLY

Made the mantel legs, frieze, and shelf of MDF adhered to the existing brick surround	$62
Detailed the mantel legs with astragal molding for a paneled look	$11
Used baseboard trim to make plinth blocks for the legs	$22
Accented the mantel shelf with crown and egg-and-dart quarter-round molding	$85
Adhered appliqués to the frieze and skirted it with chair rail	$88
Created faux paneling on the wall above the mantel with baseboard and mullion moldings	$31
Painted the brick fireplace surround and used a leftover gallon from another project for the mantel and wall paneling	$12
Enclosed the firebox with a vintage cast-iron front	$125

Total: $436



BEFORE A missing mantel and a dark brick surround made the fireplace stand out—in a bad way. AFTER Creative use of stock moldings and a vintage cast-iron firebox cover turn the hearth into a showpiece.

{ before }

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 138

COTTAGE COMEBACK

Its stucco painted bubble-gum pink and its interior spotted black with mold, this 1950s home sat empty for years—until a new owner with an eye for cost-conscious design revived it with a welcoming open plan and a warm, rustic look

BY **HELEN THOMPSON** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN**
PRODUCED BY **COLETTE SCANLON** STYLING BY **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

Homeowner Kim Kelly created this inviting open-plan kitchen as the centerpiece of her Georgia cottage

wide-open spaces

LEFT: Placing her dining table in the kitchen, Kim made room for a simple desk area nearby. RIGHT: She gutted the original galley-style kitchen, and her contractor made sense of a remaining support post and beam by creating an arch that hovers above her farm table. The room's tumbled-travertine-marble floor, exposed brick wall, and wood ceiling make it feel like a special, separate space.

SOMETIMES A HOUSE HAS TO WAIT awhile for the right owner to come along, someone with vision, who can see past a place that looks a little down on its luck. That was certainly the case for the forlorn pink stucco house on a main street that many visitors travel as they arrive on St. Simons Island, just off the coast of Georgia. For eight years, the house sat empty, and the once-pert tropical-colored cottage became an unfortunate local landmark, increasingly hidden from view by a tangle of tall grass and bushes.

But the wheels of fate were turning. For two years, Kim Kelly took note of the house each time she went by. "It was hard not to notice it," she says, "because of the color, of course, but also because the place seemed so sad." She also observed something else: a weathered, handwritten FOR SALE BY OWNER sign.

Kim, a federal agent specializing in sex crimes, was on duty at a nearby Georgia facility, training other agents. She was renting on St. Simons during her stay. "It was my last assignment before retiring," she says. "I still had my house and some furniture in Southern California." But she'd been captivated by the charms of the South. "People here are so polite and so nice," she explains. In fact, they reminded her of the people she'd met in Sesto, Italy, she lived there while studying at the University of Florence and fell in love with the country's easy-going ways. After school, Kim would pursue a grueling and stressful career, but in Italy she learned the value of a slower kind of life. "It was like that in Georgia, too," she says. She could imagine settling down on St. Simons Island.

Kim called the number on the faded sign and made an appointment to see the house. She invited Scott Beveridge, a good friend who is also a contractor, to come along. Inside, black mold had pockmarked the walls and ceilings of the two-bedroom, one-bath cottage. Despite the blight, Beveridge quickly determined that the 1950s-era house was well built. The walls were solid cinder block covered with brick and a layer of stucco.

Kim's creative side immediately went into full operational mode. She'd renovated her California house and started a part-time interior-design business several years earlier. "I saw the working fireplace and the beamed ceiling, and I thought, *How can you go wrong with this?*"

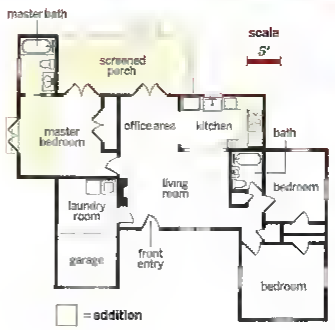
So she bought the property, relishing the idea of fixing it up, from the nuts and bolts to the last decorative flourish. Contractor and client assessed what would lie ahead as they renovated the bedraggled house. The first order of business was getting rid of the mold. "We just had it scraped off—that part was easy," says Beveridge. Total cost: $5,000.

Other, more expensive issues loomed, however. At the top of the to-do list: updating the wiring and the HVAC system and replacing the galvanized-steel plumbing with PVC pipe. The tiny, dated kitchen would need to be gutted. To gain more space, Kim proposed bumping one exterior wall out 3 feet. And, finally, she wanted a master suite and a connecting screened porch.

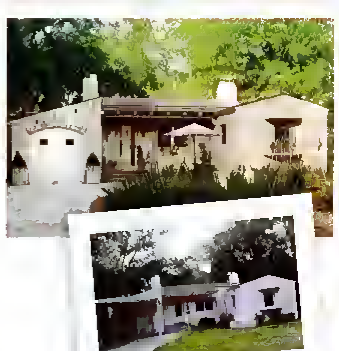
The hard part turned out to be opening up the thick exterior walls—in the back, to make way for the bedroom addition where a tiny room had been, and in the kitchen. During the demolition, Kim and Beveridge were pleasantly surprised to find that there was brick behind the drywall. Another bonus: the discovery of rafters and wood planks above the kitchen that had been hidden by an 8-foot-high dropped ceiling. Kim left the wood

floor plan

The small two-bedroom, one-bath home gained a master suite and a screened porch for a total of about 1,600 square feet of living space. Inside, the kitchen was opened up to the living room and bumped out 3 feet. Outside, a metal carport was demolished, and the pink exterior was painted a warm, neutral khaki.



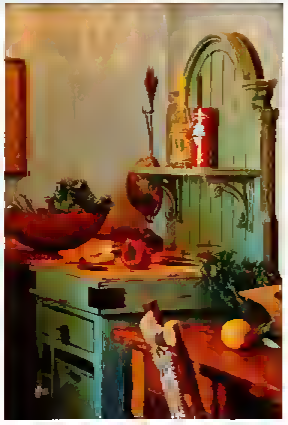
FLOOR PLAN: AN WORNDLE



{ before }

cottage details

TOP LEFT A barn-light sconce from Lowe's helps brighten the kitchen, which has a polished wood-plank ceiling. **TOP RIGHT** An Italian house-number plaque adds charm to a tiled niche. **MIDDLE** Found on Ebay for $300, the rustic copper farm sink works well with the brick wall and live-oak countertops. **BOTTOM** A freestanding storage piece with a butcher-block prep surface is tucked between the cabinets and the table.



and the weathered brick wall behind the kitchen sink exposed because she loved their rustic look.

"This house is really all about the kitchen," Kim says. "It was always going to be the focal point." When a wall that had closed it off from the main room was taken down, the kitchen came into its own. Kim's plan was to place a 7½-foot farm table directly under the arch that Beveridge crafted to hide the post and support beam where the wall had been. To make up for work surface lost now that the wall was gone, he used the humpout, on the side of the kitchen where a door to the outside once stood, for the stove and flanking cabinets. Lost in the shuffle was some storage space, which Kim was actually glad about, as she was looking to downsize and simplify her life. "I got my pots and pans down to five pieces," she says proudly. "Besides, I can always add a pot rack if I need to."

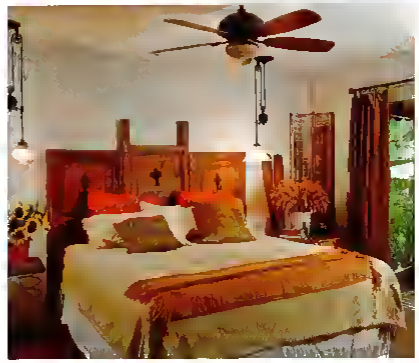
To save money, Kim did some bargain hunting. The barn light over the sink was $20 at Lowe's. The cabinets in the kitchen are from U-Save Cabinets and were discounted because they were floor samples. She painted them gray, then glazed them brown and added Pottery Barn hardware for a look that complements the rustic decor. On eBay she found a copper farm sink for $300—"a steal," she says. The refrigerator ($900) and dishwasher ($300) were a fraction of their retail cost at an estate sale. Even the 2-foot-square travertine-marble slabs for the kitchen floor—a luxe touch—were found at The Home Depot, a bargain at just $1.88 per square foot. The rest of the house still has the original oak floors, but Kim chose to use the marble as a way to set off her kitchen as a distinct space.

The other addition was a master suite with French doors opening onto an extra-deep screened porch. Essential for keeping the bugs at bay, the wood-framed porch wraps around the back, with another set of doors opening into the living room to allow breezes to move through the house. "It also brings a lot of natural light inside, and it's so peaceful," says Kim.

During the construction, four months in all, the designing pair did not neglect the exterior of the house. Although the pink paint had been its trademark, Kim decided to calm down the facade with Sherwin-Williams's Universal Khaki, which gives the house a handsome, timeless look. Sprucing up the 75-by-130-foot lot was another priority. "We completely gutted the landscape," says Kim. The small backyard now has a rough-hewn-marble patio, and, in the front yard, Kim designed four raised beds for organic gardens, had an irrigation system

letting the outside in

RIGHT The wood-framed screened porch, built 10 feet deep, has a corrugated metal roof. **BELOW** French doors in the master bedroom open onto the breeze-cooled porch.



tunneled in, and dug a well to supply it. She did much of the dirty work herself, planting marsh grasses and rosemary hedges that now flourish along river-rock pathways. "I keep clippers in the front and tell my neighbors to cut their own rosemary," she says.

There was one thing Beveridge did that surprised both contractor and client. "We removed the rickety aluminum carport that somebody had attached to the front of the garage. It made almost a bigger difference than anything else we did," he says. Revealed: a brick arch over the carriage doors, each with a little window, and the cottage's original well-thought-out symmetry. "You could tell whoever built this house really loved it," Beveridge says. And it's also obvious that the person who lives in it now loves it even more. Her decision about staying in Georgia? That's been made, too. Says Kim, "This is where I will spend the next chapter of my life." ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 138

FALL LEAVES
1 In autumn, the white garden in front of Robin Coleburn's art studio is punctuated by sprays of white *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert,' the phlox-like blossoms of *Nicotiana sylvestris*, and *Senecio* 'Frosty Morn.' The bronze leaves of the stewartia add a fiery note.

late-season SENSATION

Carved out of an apple orchard, these colorful garden rooms show how fall-blooming perennials, long-flowering annuals, and a fruitful harvest can really shine in the golden light of autumn

When the time came for Robin Coleburn to design her garden rooms, the apple trees that surround them set the pace. The orchard not only gave the connected outdoor spaces their grid but also influenced their bloom schedule. While most gardens hit their stride in spring and early summer, then limp along into fall, Robin's follows a different rhythm. Autumn has always been a big moment in her landscape. And over the years she has found additional creative ways to make the growing season go out with a bang rather than a whimper.

Robin is a seasoned gardener, but originally she came to northern Vermont to farm. Twenty years ago, she decided to take on an apple orchard. She was no stranger to the Chittenden County region—she had spent her childhood summers at her family's camp down the road from what

by **Tovah Martin** • photographs by **Jim Westphalen**
produced by **Colette Scanlon**

FOLIAGE STARS
2_ Conifers ornamental grasses and sedums form a deep border. **3_** The studio garden's moon-shaped gate supports an arching larch (*Larix x pendula*) on the way to a stand of asparagus.

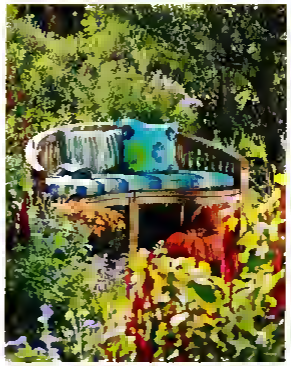
was then Golden Apple Orchard. So when the business came up for sale, she plunked down her money, pulled on some overalls, and went straight into getting ready for the next autumn's pick-your-own crowds.

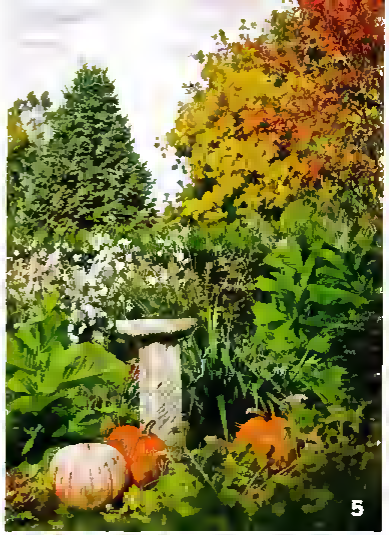
A few winters into her stewardship, Robin decided to call it quits, as the orchard dream was losing its luster. The reality of growing apples entailed too many spray rigs for a person fond of birds and bees. Eventually, Robin let the fruit trees go back to a wild state and switched gears, creating a haven for wildlife. That meant converting her land into gardens with fodder for winged things from the first spring of spring to the last winterberry. She had already begun carving out garden rooms that radiate from the house to extend the living space outdoors. She'd started with a curved patio—having previously done the job herself, she knew that laying out the bricks from a central circle was surprisingly easy. From there, she configured terraces and replaced ailing apple trees with stands of conifers to direct winds over the house. There was an ulterior motive. The gardens gave Robin the flowers she wanted as models for the oversize canvases she paints—but what she really needed was an artist's studio to get her out of the house when snowbound. The workspace she built was a modest clapboard structure, but it incited all sorts of horticultural high jinks.

Robin's instincts as an artist pointed her toward taking the grid of the apple orchard and echoing it in the landscape surrounding the building, creating a formal array of spaces. And she craved lots of strong color—but the shades couldn't clash. The answer was to segment the gardens into rooms.

"I had been a gardener for 20 years, so I knew plants. But I knew nothing about landscape design," Robin admits. Her remedy was to hit the books and study magazines. Research extended her education, but it also expanded her wish list. In order to incorporate every fantasy that hatched—from classical parterres to ebullient, less structured spaces—she had to think big. That's when she took out her colored pencils and drew up a plan for the series of rectangular rooms within a larger rectangular framework. The patterns in each garden—from intersecting circles to fleurs-de-lis—were complex. The 200-by-300-foot format provided ample room to let her artistic leanings run free. She used conifer hedges and tall shrubs as walls to give the gardens a cohesive look, and she surrounded the whole studio garden with an 8-foot-tall open-lattice fence that allows good air circulation but dissuades marauding deer.

Drawing up the garden was done in one winter, tweaking the design took another four plus years. For





COLORFUL CHARACTER
4_ Kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate (*Polygonum orientale*) flowering amaranth and ageratum soften the bench in the bird garden, with winterberry on the side. **5_** The birdbath beside the studio is flanked by colossal pumpkins. Yucca, *Nicotiana sylvestris*, and *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert' complement the blue Arizona fir in the distance. **6_** Robin's dog, Tricky Woo, ambles by the small bench in front of the wetland area with cattails and ornamental grasses standing tall. Mums, autumn anemones, and ornamental peppers provide more color in pots.

DECORATIVE ACCENTS

7_ Robin Coleburn, shown on the circular patio behind the house, used the arms of espaliered pear and apple trees to form a fence that provides a sense of enclosure. **8_** A stone calm balances beside *Sedum* 'Matrona' and teucrium, which muscle out any weeds in the cracks between the stones of the pathway. **9_** In the bird garden, a fanciful birdhouse is surrounded by more *Polygonum orientale* and winterberry. **10_** For a focal point in the central room of the studio garden, Robin chose a corkscrew hazel (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta') with amsonia all around. **11_** Blue-green fences define the studio garden.

example, a berry garden was originally on the menu, "but it was too much of a mess," Robin found. In the end, she was able to indulge the full gamut of her dreams, including an herb garden, a bird garden, a white garden, a hot-color garden, a vegetable-garden parterre, and a conifer garden—all within footsteps of her studio.

A four-season sort of gardener, Robin would never let autumn fall off the map, even though that went against the tide of typical nursery availability. Fall is when most nurseries sell their inventory for 30 percent off and call it a day. Meanwhile, the big-box stores and supermarkets go straight into chrysanthemum mode—period. Robin likes mums, but they are just the beginning. Although beefing up fall required some legwork, research, and trips to specialty nurseries, she got the fairy-tale ending to the growing season that she wanted.

Autumn is when the anemones send up tall flower spikes and break into bloom above sedums smothered in flower heads of shimmering shades. Airy blue blossoms form clouds on tall spires of Russian sage. The wand flower (*Gaura lindheimeri*) reblooms. And autumn crocus goes crazy carpeting the beds like a groundcover. In the bird garden, kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate grows eye-level high, and amaranth plumes produce reddish purple seed heads, to the delight of winged passersby.

The nepetas is still going strong, and echinacea is in its prime. Add in the flowering kale and the ripe edible cabbages, and there's plenty to please both palette and palate. Even the lacy flower stalks of spent asparagus turn bright yellow before browning. Myriad ornamental grasses are in tassel and plume. And then, on top of it all, surrounding trees and shrubs blush with their fall colors, including stewartia, maples, and winterberries.

Put it all together, and the colors could reach riotous proportions—if it weren't for the room design. Even outside the fenced studio garden, conifers muffle the carnival effect while simultaneously playing off the blues in the squash and the oranges in the pumpkins scattered around as Robin takes the last barrab to another level. Later in the year, northern Vermont might not be such a lively sight. But in this garden, come October, rather than a winding down, it looks more like the start of a brilliant new beginning. ■

tablet exclusive!

See more of this glorious garden with additional photos—available exclusively on the TOH tablet edition. It's free for subscribers. Learn more at thisoldhouse.com/tablet

FIFTY NIFTY FIX-UPS FOR LESS THAN $100

Simple upgrades can drastically improve the feel and function of your home. Read on for CLEVER TIPS, PROJECTS, AND PRODUCTS that offer a big payoff for a small investment in time and money

By Cara Greenberg

1. Block drafts and highlight the entry with a curtain on the inside of the front door. Similar to shown at left: Lush Decor's Mia Panel Pair in eggshell white with silver and black stripes, **$27,** and Talon Valance in gray, **$21;** wayfair.com

2. **WIRE UP A RUSTIC LANTERN** over a dining table as a striking substitute for the typical chandelier. Hampton Bay Hanging 3-Light Outdoor Aged Iron Lantern **$60;** homedepot.com

3. **COVER A CEILING IN CORK** for a cozy effect that also absorbs noise. Trim cork sheets to size. Spread adhesive on ceiling; position cork and roll into place, securing corners with brad nails. Natural Tan Composition Cork **$2.49** per square foot; and Forbo adhesive, **$9.95** per quart; bangorcork.com

4. **ADORN YOUR DOOR WITH HOUSE NUMBERS** in an oversize fancy font so that friends can find you easily. Stick-on vinyl decals in a range of fonts and colors make it simple. About **$12;** etsy.com/shop/memoriesInasnapphoto

5. **REHANG AN EXISTING DOOR,** or a new salvaged one, as a space-saving slider using barn-door hardware for a chic industrial look. Barn door install kit, **$94;** hardwareworld.com

6. Replace tired annuals in patio containers with evergreens. Come spring, move them to the garden and refill pots with blooms. Shown: Wee Willie boxwood and Honey Maid holly, **$15** to **$30** each in 1-gallon tubs; at garden centers

7. **LINE THE BACK OF A BOOKCASE** with extra floorboards. The rich wood tones show off decorative objects to advantage. If you don't have leftovers, pick up a few boards at a reuse center for about **$1** per linear foot.

8. **WRAP ROPE AROUND A HANDRAIL** for a textured nonslip surface. Start by running a few inches down the rail, then bind it under the loops, pulling tightly as you go. Nylon rope comes in a variety of colors, both vibrant and subdued. Double-braid ¼-inch rope, **$45** for 100 feet; knotandrope.com

9. **ADD LUXE HARDWARE IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE.** Prevent wall bumps with a brass doorstop that screws to the floor. Decorative floral doorstop in one of six finishes, about **$32;** doorwars.com

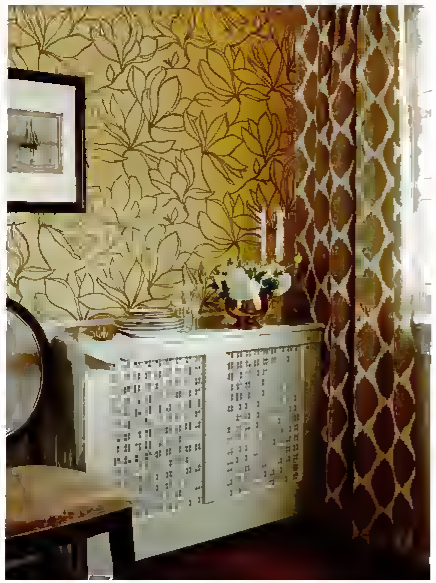
PHOTOS: TED MORK (OPPOSITE PAGE); MARK SCOTT/IPC IMAGES

10. **LIVEN UP A BLAH TILE FLOOR** with colored grout. Scraping out the old grout takes patience, so this update is best for larger tiles that have fewer lines to contend with. Laticrete tinted grout, **$17** for a 10-pound bag, lowes.com

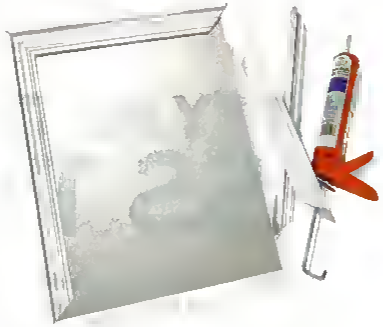
11. **CREATE A THRESHOLD** at the start of a gravel path by placing irregular bluestone slabs side by side. Bluestone slabs, about **$4** each, at stone yards

13. **LAYER SPRING BULBS IN A FROST-PROOF PLANTER** for staggered blooms when the weather warms. Larger bulbs, like daffodils, go in first, at 8 inches deep; then tulips, at 6 inches; and smaller bulbs closer to the surface. Cape Cod 14- by 14-inch planter, **$80;** frontera.com. 35 mixed bulbs, **$7.95;** bulbsdirect.com

14. **REFRESH THE GARAGE DOOR** by painting it an accent color that ties in with your home's exterior. Solo 100% Acrylic Interior/Exterior Latex works on wood, metal, or vinyl doors, **$55** per gallon; sherwin-williams.com



12. Enclose a dining room radiator to create a serving buffet. For a box like this, use a combination of 1×2s, 1×4s, and 1×8s for the frame. A 12-inch-wide shelf board forms the top, and painted pierced-metal panels in the center allow warmed air to pass through. Get parts for about **$75** at home centers.



15. **OBSCURE AN UNSIGHTLY VIEW** with decorative window film that's removable and repositionable. We like the Dusted Leaf motif, **$5.25** per running foot; decorativefilm.com

16. **CREATE A CUSTOM BULLETIN BOARD** for a home office with Homasote, an eco-friendly fiber composite used for soundproofing. It takes paint great or you can cover it with fabric. 4 by-8 foot sheet, about **$20;** at lumberyards

17. **GIVE A TABLE A HAMMERED-METAL FINISH** with specialty paint. In copper bronze, and four other faux metal looks. It adds sparkle to your home furnishings scheme. Molten Metallics, **$23** per quart; benjaminmoore.com

18. **ADD COLOR AND TEXTURE** to a white tile backsplash with peel-and-stick decals. The Delft design with raised blue-and-white flowers mimics the look of hand painted Dutch squares. TileStix decals, pack of four, **$12;** berlinwallpaper.com

19. Frame a new no-frills medicine chest with crown molding for a custom-look cabinet. A frame can also hide chipped mirror edges on an old chest. Cut four lengths of crown to size, mitering the corners, and adhere to the glass with mirror mastic. Zenith 16-inch-wide Recessed Medicine Cabinet, **$32,** and Style Selections Low-VOC Mirror Mastic, **$8.88;** lowes.com. Solid crown, less than **$1** per linear foot; at lumberyards

PHOTOS: (FROM LEFT) STACEY BRANDFORD; TED MORRISON (OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT) TYRA BOLTON; TED MORRISON

20. Reuse maps from your travels as wall art. Apply wallpaper paste to the backs with a china-bristle brush, position on the wall, and smooth the surface to remove air bubbles. When dry, apply a sealer. Roman Pro 880 Ultra Clear Adhesive, **$16** per gallon, and Aqua Zar water-based polyurethane, **$13** per quart; acehardwareoutlet.com

21. **ORGANIZE TOOLS ON A TWO-SIDED HINGED HOLDER** that swings out from your workshop wall like a cabinet door. Build a simple 1×3 frame, and sheathe the front and back with pegboard. Fasten one side of a pair of door hinges to the front of the pegboard holder and the other to the wall. Use long wood screws for the wall-mount side and anchor firmly into a stud. About **$30** for all materials at home centers

22. **BEEF UP A WAINSCOT CAP** so that it doubles as a display shelf. Swap your existing cap for 1×3 trim edged with nose-and-cove molding. The resulting ledge is deep enough for propping family photos. Prepriмed MDF 1×3, about **$4** for 8 feet, and nose and cove, **$1.75** per linear foot, at lumberyards

23. **COVER A SHOWER-STALL FLOOR** with click-together patio squares for a spa-like look that will also disguise worn tile. Premium Plantation Teak Tiles, 11 by 11 inches, **$31** for a box of 10; overstock.com

24. **MAKE A PATTERNED WALL PANEL** by stretching extra upholstery fabric over a wood canvas frame for artists. Masterpiece B2 Stretcher Kit with Braces, 24 by 48 inches, **$63;** dickblick.com

25. **IMPROVISE A POTTING BENCH** for the shed or garage by wrapping a sheet of rust-resistant aluminum around the top of a table. Use a rubber mallet to fold the metal around the edges, and fasten from below with nails. 4 by-8-foot aluminum sheet, **$34;** stainlesssupply.com

26. **ADD MUDROOM STORAGE** with crates that are yours for the asking at wine shops. Screw the bottoms to the wall so the open top faces out. Use the resulting cubbies to stash gloves and scarves. Not friends with a wine seller? Buy an Old Fashioned Wooden Wine Box, **$12;** amazon.com

27. **KEEP COLD AIR FROM SNEAKING UNDER THE DOOR** with a draft stopper. Try a rugged hemp fabric tube filled with fragrant fir needles. Balsam Draft Stopper, **$20;** bonafidegreengoods.com

28. **PUT THE BATH FAN ON A TIMER** to exhaust moist air from your morning shower long after you've gone to work. Keeping mildew at bay, Honeywell Digital Bath Fan Control, **$54;** ecomfort.com

29. **BUILD A HEADBOARD** out of wood lattice framed with lattice-cap trim. Paint it, or back it with colorful fabric pulled tight and stapled to the frame. Spruce 4×8 lattice, **$13,** and lattice cap, **$3.98** for 8 feet, lowes.com

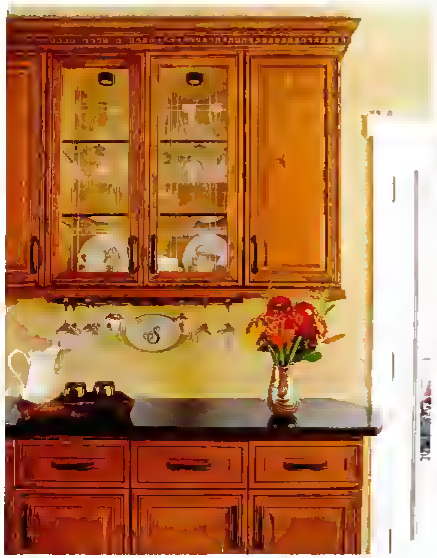
30. Recycle old dresser drawers as rolling under-bed storage boxes. Glue scrap wood blocks to the inside corners, and secure small casters from below with screws. Score drawers on big-item trash day. 1⅝-inch casters, **$5.21** for four; homedepot.com

31. **CORRAL PET FOOD BOWLS** in a sleek metal boot tray to protect the floor from splashes and keep kibble contained. Extra Weave USA antiqued-copper-finish boot tray, **$38;** amazon.com

32. **KEEP FIREWOOD DRY ON A STEEL RACK** with a clever cover that moves down as the stack gets smaller. Grab logs without having to remove and replace the cover each time. 3-foot Woodhaven Firewood Rack with cover, **$99,** woodlanddirect.com

34. **MAKE A FIRE PIT** to turn your backyard into usable entertaining space in chilly weather. Rather than a store-bought bowl, use a steel rim from a truck or tractor tire. Lay it flat on a dirt or gravel surface, ring with stones to hold in place, and build the fire inside. Find used rims for about **$20** at junkyards and auto-body shops.

35. **INVEST IN CLOTH NAPKINS** to prevent paper waste and add a gracious note to the dinner table. Home Trends Woven Dinner Napkins, in five colors, **$8** for four, walmart.com



33. Devise a kitchen bar by swapping wood panels in two upper cabinets for glass. Then add an undercabinet stemware holder. Glass, starting at **$10** per square foot; bendheimcabinetglass.com. J.K. Adams Stemware Rack, **$32;** amazon.com

36. **PRESERVE THE LAST OF THE SEASON'S FRESH HERBS** on an attractive drying rack that hangs from the kitchen ceiling, and you'll be ready for soups and stews all winter long. Herb Drying Rack, **$19;** williams-sonoma.com

37. **HANG A MIRROR OPPOSITE A WINDOW** to boost natural, reflected light in a room. The Victorians used this trick when dim gas-fueled fixtures and candles were the only supplementary lights. Antique Tiled Square Wall Mirror, **$99;** westelm.com

38. **TURN AN OLD FRIDGE INTO A CANVAS** for recipes, reminders, and doodles by brushing the doors and side panels with chalkboard paint. Rust-Oleum Specialty Chalk Board paint in green finish, **$16** per quart, amazon.com

39. **PUT ADHESIVE-BACKED CORK BUMPERS** inside kitchen cabinet doors and drawers to keep them from slamming and potentially chipping the woodwork. Pack of 24 half-inch cork pads, **$3.99;** acehardware.com

40. **MOUNT HEXAGONAL GLASS KNOBS,** normally used on cabinets and drawers, on the wall as hooks for pot holders and loop-handle kitchen utensils. **$3.89** each, hoshbiz

41. Customize a stock steel industrial-style pendant with spray paint for colorful and functional task lighting above a kitchen island or a kid's homework station. Hampton Bay Warehouse Pendant, **$30;** homedepot.com. Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch Gloss Spray Paint in Real Orange, **$7.24;** amazon.com

42. **LINE THE FIREBOX IN A NONWORKING HEARTH** with plywood and add shelves cut from the same wood to turn a former black hole into storage space for books and knickknacks. 4-by-8-foot sheet of ¾-inch birch plywood, **$46;** homedepot.com

43. **CONCEAL HOME-OFFICE SUPPLIES** stashed in a bookcase or a shelving unit by hanging a roller shade from the top. Try the Savannah Cut-to-Width Unfringed Thermal Roller Shade, which comes in three colors and five lengths, starting at **$22;** jcpenney.com

PHOTOS, (FROM LEFT) DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN; TED MORRISSEY. (OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT) TED MORRISSEY; JEAN ALLSOPP

44. **ADD A LUXE LOOK TO A BUILT-IN BATHTUB** by hanging two curtains as if you were framing a window. Overlap the curtains where they meet in the middle to create a watertight barrier. Choose quick-dry fabric curtains that need no liner, resist mold and mildew, and won't off-gas like plastic. Hotel Seneca shower curtains, **$80** for two, bedbathandbeyond.com

45. Create a gallery wall of vegetable prints in the kitchen for culinary inspiration. Hung from twine with metal clips, they can be changed with the seasons. *The Vegetable Garden* (Taschen), a boxed set of 46 prints, **$90;** amazon.com. Sparco bulldog clips, **$3.35** for 36; shoplet.com

46. **ADD A SENSE OF SPACIOUSNESS** in the den and gain surface area for reading lamps by tucking a console behind the sofa so that the seat floats away from the wall. Winsome Wood Shaker-style table, **$80;** amazon.com

47. **ILLUMINATE THE CONTENTS OF A DRAWER** with a cool-burning, battery-powered LED light that sticks to the inside of the drawer front. The Sylvania Light Flute also pops out of its base to double as a portable flashlight, **$13;** amazon.com

48. Create a kitchen island by fitting an old dresser or Hoosier cabinet base with a butcher-block top. Leave a 12-inch overhang on one side to create a breakfast bar. 33-by-36-inch maple butcher block, **$87;** perfectplank.com

49. **CREATE PRIVACY IN A BATH** with faux-wood window shutters. They're mold- and mildew-resistant, won't warp, and never need painting. Allen + Roth Faux Wood Interior Shutter, **$36;** lowes.com

50. **GET THE LOOK OF PRICEY WALLPAPER** with a Wall Tattoo, an easy-to-paint stencil that covers a large area, minimizing the effort and time it takes to do a wall. Stencils in five patterns, **$45** each, benjaminmoore.com ■

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NEVER STOP
IMPROVING

Gulp.

Swallow those fears about redoing your kitchen. A little taste of the help we can give is all it takes to turn that anxious gulp into a gasp of excitement.

lowes.com/k

73 tips, tricks, and answers to your home-improvement questions

Q I just bought a house in the woods with lots of downed trees. Can I turn them into firewood?

—JOHN DILLON, NEW YORK, N.Y.

As long as the fallen trees haven't started rotting on the forest floor, they can become fuel for your fireplace. Get yourself a sledgehammer and a wedge, like you see here, and get to work. Splitting is worth the effort because the wood dries faster, stacks easier, and burns better than round logs. Of course, you'll need a chain saw first. For help picking one out, see page 134.

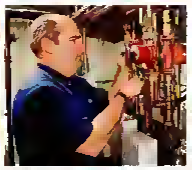
—ROGER COOK
TOH LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEVI BROWN

→ Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA
General Contractor

NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert

ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor

KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

The locks on several of my double-hung windows are long gone. How do I replace them? —LEROY WALKER JR. HIGH POINT, N.C.

Norm Abram replies: A good sash lock on a double-hung window discourages break-ins and keeps out drafts by pulling the top and bottom sashes tightly together and pushing each one snug against the top and bottom of the window opening.

First, plug any existing screw holes with whittled wood plugs and a dab of glue. Then try to find sash locks that match the ones on your other windows so that you can use the same screw holes. But if you're installing a lock of a different size or type, proceed as follows.

Start by engaging the two halves of the lock as if you were locking the window. Note whether there's a space between their bases. If there isn't, position the strike—the half with no moving parts—flush with the inside edge of the upper sash's rail. If there is a space, measure it and install the strike half that distance back from rail's inside edge. Mark and drill shallow pilot holes into the rail for the screws. There's not much clearance next to the glass to turn a standard screwdriver, so I use a ratcheting model.

Now set the other half of the lock—the latch—into position with the lock slightly, but not tightly, engaged. Push the bottom sash against the upper one to bring the rails together, then mark the latch-side screw locations. Drill the pilot holes and install the latch.

Properly fitted sash locks offer a cost effective way to control air leaks in older windows.

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) ANTHONY T. EULI (4); KOLIN SMITH; ANTHONY TIEULI (OPPOSITE PAGE); "WHAT IS IT?") WERNFELL T. WEBBER (R. ISHII); VLADIMIR KHRONOPALAKY

Q SEALING A GARAGE FLOOR

Is it necessary to seal a garage floor? I worry about what rain and snow and salt will do to the concrete.

—STEVEN SOCCI, ASTORIA, N.Y.

Kevin O'Connor replies: Rain really isn't a problem, but salt- and chemical-laden snow can be. According to Paul Tennis, manager of cement and concrete technology at the Portland Cement Association, it all depends on the quality of the concrete, which can vary. "Concrete that's well made and properly placed will resist salt and snow-melting chemicals," he says. But slabs that aren't handled with the best of care could suffer from surface flaking or corroded reinforcement if salt-laden snow melt seeps in.

To reduce the chances of this happening, sweep or squeegee away snow and slush. Or apply a penetrating concrete sealer, which could help prevent a shoddy slab from deteriorating.

How can you tell if your slab needs sealing? The short answer: You can't. So go ahead and use a sealer. It won't hurt, and it might even help.

Q TOO MANY ACORNS

We planted two pin oaks about 50 years ago, and they've grown quite large. Every spring, we fertilize the trees with chelated iron, and every fall, they drop unbelievable quantities of acorns. Is there any way to reduce the crop we have to sweep up?

—AL FINGERHUTH, TIFFIN, OHIO

WHAT IS IT?

A → Board-thickness gauge

B → Cable splicer

C → Spade sharpener

D → Oar

FOR THE ANSWER SEE PAGE 137

Chipmunks and squirrels welcome mast years, when an oak tree's acorn production booms, but the fallout makes yard cleanup a nightmare.

Roger Cook replies: I'll bet the squirrels and chipmunks in your neighborhood appreciate all the acorns, even if you don't. Typically, acorn production is cyclical, with a mast year, or bumper crop, followed by years of more modest nut production. Your trees must be very healthy to be able to produce so many acorns year after year.

I talked to my arborist friend Jack Kelly about your problem. He said there are plant-growth regulators that can be sprayed on the trees when they flower, to reduce the amount of fruit they produce. However, timing is critical, applying the spray one day too early or too late will undermine the treatment's effectiveness. And you should know that hiring a pro to spray two large trees won't be cheap.

So before you do all that, cut back on the iron and see if that makes any difference. And while you're waiting for the acorn crop to diminish, consider keeping the ground clean with a nut-gathering tool (gardenweasel.com). It'll be a lot easier than using a broom or a rake.

Q HANDRAIL ON CONCRETE

My basement stairs run along a foundation wall where I'd like to put a heavy-duty handrail. How should I attach it?

—APRIL BEEBA, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Tom Silva replies: Whether it's solid concrete or concrete block, I'd attach the rail with corrosion-resistant masonry screws, such as Tapcons (tapcon.com). They're easier to install and remove than other kinds of masonry anchors and very strong.

For these screws to work, you need to drill pilot holes for them using a properly sized carbide-tipped masonry bit and embed them at least 1 inch into the wall. Pilot holes that aren't the right diameter dramatically reduce the screws' holding power. Sometimes the screws come packaged with the correct drill bit so that you don't have to worry about making a mistake.

When drilling into solid concrete, make the pilot hole ½ inch deeper than the screw's embedded depth—

the length of the screw minus the thickness of the handrail bracket. With concrete block, keep the holes well away from the mortar joints. And with either material, always clear all the dust from the holes before driving the screws

Q PATIO PUDDLE

My husband and I built a flagstone patio, but now, when we get a lot of rain, a big puddle collects where it meets the yard. Is there anything we can do to prevent this ponding?

– SUTTON MORA HAYES MEMPHIS TENN

Roger Cook replies: Your downsized lawn can't absorb all the extra runoff from your new patio, so you need a way to capture it before it gets there. The solution is a trench drain, which has a grate set at grade to capture water, and a trough to channel it away

These drains come in different sizes, but a 3-inch-wide model that's 4 to 6 inches deep should be able to handle any downpour you're likely to see A PVC drain pipe conveys the water from the trough to a dry well or two, or to a low point where the pipe pierces the surface—but not where it will send water onto your neighbor's property. You can get drains and dry wells from the same source that I use ndspro com

send your questions to askthisoldhouse

go to thisoldhouse com/asktoh
or write to Ask This Old House
This Old House magazine
135 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10020

Include a complete address and daytime phone number Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media We regret that because of the volume of mail received we're unable to reply to unpublished questions

A tightly weatherstripped storm door can reduce air leakage around a front door by as much as 2 for th

I know storm doors cut down on drafts, but are they difficult to install?

—MARYANNE COLLINS ISLIP N Y

Chris Palmerini of Andersen Corporation replies: Not at all. Storm doors are sometimes made of wood or fiberglass, but most—including the Andersen 3000 Series storm I'm installing here—are built from low-maintenance aluminum.

Cost: Around $300 for an easy to-install single-pane, painted aluminum door
Time: About an hour
Difficulty: Easy provided you measure accurately

Home centers stock standard sizes and can supply custom sizes in a couple of weeks Look for models that have weatherstripped mounting rails, which allow you to install the door yourself in about an hour.

Before you start, check the width of the jamb and the thickness of the door casing If the jamb is less than 2½ inches wide or the casing is less than 1 inch thick, pad out the casing with ¾-inch-wide filler strips They'll support the mounting rail and allow clearance for the handle when the storm door is shut

PHOTOS RYAN BENYI (7)

STEP-BY-STEP Install a storm door

1_ Size the door

Measure the doorway's width at the top, middle, and bottom between the inside edges of the side casings and its height at the center between the sill and the bottom edge of the head casing The height and the shortest width will determine what size door you order Specify which way the door should swing its hinges should be on the same side of the opening as the entry door's

2_ Put the door in place

Rest the door's bottom edge spacers on the sill and tip the closed door into the opening so that the Z shaped mounting rails cover the side casing s corners Hold the door with your shoulder as you drill ⅛ inch pilot holes through the middle hole in each rail and into the casing s face drive a screw into each hole Then drill pilot holes through the other holes in the rails and screw them to the casing s face

3_ Fasten the rails

Remove the clips that secure the door, then open it To bolster the hinge side drill more pilot holes into the edge of the casing through the holes in the hinge side rail and drive a screw into each one Don t overtighten them doing so could strip the holes or pull the door out of square Remove all the remaining spacer clips and install the door latch

4_ Attach the brackets

Place the jamb bracket for the closer as shown so that the bracket is against the hinge rail and lines up horizontally with the glass trim Drill pilot holes through the bracket and screw it to the jamb Slip on the bracket arm and screw it to the jamb too Screw the closer's door bracket into the factory drilled holes on the frame

5_ Install the closer

Extend the arm of the pneumatic closer as far as possible, and use a pin to connect it to the jamb bracket Pin the other end to the door bracket as shown Repeat Steps 4 and 5 to mount a matching closer at the top Next hook on and fasten the rain cap mounting flange which covers the gap between the top of the storm door and the head casing

6_ Adjust the door sweep

Close the door and loosen the screws on the door sweep Let the sweep drop to the sill across its entire width and tighten the screws, as shown Press the glass retainer strips into the top and bottom of the frame and snap vinyl screw covers over the rain cap and both rails Finally, lay a bead of sealant along the top edge of the rain cap flange and the sides of the mounting rails

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 138

TOH TESTED

Super saws

A new crop of chain saws possesses the perfect combination of size, weight, and speed for the backyard lumberjack. You can fall a tree for firewood [illegible]. And the engines on our five [illegible] Let 'er rip. —SALVAGLICA

what to look for

1. A translucent gas tank or one with a window to check the fuel level
2. A tool-less tensioner for quick and easy chain adjustments
3. An easy-start system paired with a primer bulb that fires up the engine with fewer pulls
4. A handle spacious enough to hold down with your boot [illegible] starts
5. A blade brake you can comfortably nudge with your wrist

HUSQVARNA 440 E-16

$2[illegible] husqvarna.com

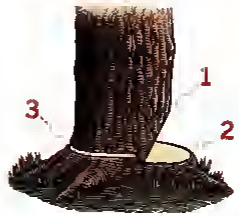
[illegible]? Read the ha[illegible] the handle. We [illegible] ch'd ame[illegible] without a probl[illegible] 16-inch bar [illegible] the saw from [illegible] Still, this [illegible] fatigue like chain saw[illegible] handle insul[illegible] engine vibration. Fuel-friendly and **Fine print:** [illegible] cc engine, [illegible] centimeter (cc[illegible] 12,000 revolutions per minute (rpm).

HOT STUFF Some tree species give off more heat when burned—expressed in British Thermal Units (Btus)—than others. The higher the number, the hotter the fire. Here's how some of the best common firewoods stack up

RED OAK	7,013 Btus per pound
HARD MAPLE	7,012 Btus per pound
HICKORY	6,999 Btus per pound
WHITE ASH	6,998 Btus per pound
WHITE OAK	6,991 Btus per pound
BLACK LOCUST	6,989 Btus per pound

Technique: getting from forest to fireplace

Cutting down trees for firewood requires a game plan. Here's yours



FELLING **1.** Cut diagonally down into the trunk at a 70-degree angle to the ground until you're one-third of the way through it and a few inches above grade. **2.** Make a horizontal cut to complete a notch; then knock the wedge out of the trunk. **3.** Make the hinge cut. Slice toward the notch's point or slightly higher from the opposite side, leaving an even strip of meat ¾ to 2 inches wide. Shout "Timber!" Now cut off the limbs.

LIFTING To cut a log into sections without pinching the saw blade, use a timber jack. **1.** Slip the jaw around the log a few feet from the cut end, with the T-shaped kickstand between you and the log. Push the handle away until the inside of the jaw touches the bark. **2.** Ease the handle back until the jaw bites and the kickstand jacks up the log. **3.** Lay the handle on the ground and saw the log into lengths that will fit in your fireplace.

SPLITTING Stand the log section on a larger log or solid earth. Line up the splitting ax so that its blade meets the edge closest to you, with one-third of the blade hanging off—you don't want to bury the blade in the center. Grasp the end of the handle with one hand and the top of the handle with the other, and raise the ax overhead. Now swing, letting the handle slip through the top hand, and drive the blade into the perimeter.

TIP: "If wood is your primary heat source, it's worth investing in a log splitter. It's a real labor-saver."

—ROGER COOK, TOH LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

STIHL MS 250

$300; stihlusa.com

This beast didn't flinch when we buried the 18-inch bar into a 17-inch-diameter log. Its engine is larger and more powerful than most in the DIY class, and it roared to life with just three pulls. We only wish it was paired with user-friendly features—at least a primer bulb. The blade brake is well placed, and the looping top handle lets you cut stumps nearly flush to the ground. **Fine print:** 45.4cc engine, 14,000 rpm, 12.2 pounds

PHOTOS: TED MORRISON. ILLUSTRATIONS: GREGORY HENEG

HOMELITE UT10568

$139; homelite.com

This entry-level saw works for sectioning downed branches after a storm and for slicing through logs up to 15 inches in diameter in one cut. For well under $200, you get a tool-less chain tensioner, an anti-vibration design, and a primer bulb. We like the bolt-on safety tip that keeps the chain from kicking back as it rounds over the tip—even if it does prevent plunge cuts. **Fine print:** 38cc engine, 12,000 rpm, 11.4 pounds

OREGON CS250S

$399; oregonpowernow.com

A 40-volt lithium-ion battery produces enough power to make 12.5 cuts through a 3-inch-diameter log before it needs recharging. The motor has the guts to fell a small tree, too, yet it's quiet enough to run at sunup on Sunday. And its 14-inch bar, the longest available on a cordless saw, has a built-in sharpener. We appreciate the translucent window that lets you check the level of your bar oil. **Fine print:** 40 volts, 6,400 rpm, 11 pounds

RYOBI RY40510

$189; ryobitools.com

You won't fell much of a tree with this 10-incher, but it's perfect for big pruning jobs and storm-damage cleanup. We like the long run time, the battery gauge, and the tool-less tensioner. The handle is less than comfortable, so long jobs could be difficult. The battery's location ahead of the handle, keeps the saw well balanced when slicing logs, but it feels awkward if you run the blade parallel to the ground. **Fine print:** 40 volts, 2,175 rpm, 9.8 pounds

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 138

Norm's tricks of the trade

Q I'd like to screw down the oak treads on a staircase I'm building, but I don't want to see the screwheads. What's the best way to hide them?

—WILLIAM MAZZARA MILFORD MICH.

A I'd cover each one with a wood plug. You want plugs made of oak, to match the tread, with tapered sides and the grain running across the face. Each plug fits in a recess, known as a counterbore, drilled with a brad-point bit slightly larger than the diameter of the screwhead and slightly smaller than the plug's widest end. The plugs' packaging indicates which size bit to use. This is a job for flat-head deck screws; ordinary drywall screws aren't strong enough.

Just follow these steps and no one but you will know there are screws in your staircase.

1 A counterbore should be no deeper than half the tread's thickness. So before you start, wrap some masking tape around the brad-point bit to act as a depth indicator.

After making the counterbore, drill a pilot hole for the screw using a separate twist bit the same diameter as the screw's shank. Piece the twist bit in the tapered hole made by the point of the brad-point bit, that way the pilot hole will be exactly in the center of the counterbore.

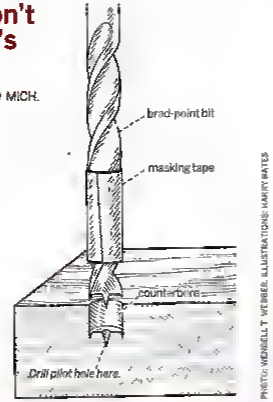
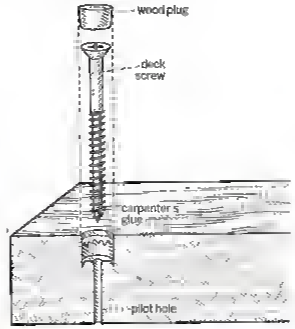
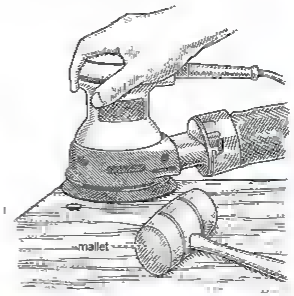


PHOTO: WENDELL T. WEBBER; ILLUSTRATIONS: HARRY BATES

2 Drive each screw tight to the bottom of its counterbore. Dab the sides of the counterbore with carpenter's glue and insert the plug, positioned so that its face grain lines up with the tread's. Tap the plug snugly into the counterbore with a mallet.



3 Use a damp rag to wipe away any glue that squeezes out. When the glue dries, sand the plug flush and watch your handiwork disappear.



WHAT IS IT?

D→ EDGE-BANDING TRIMMER
In one pass, the double-bladed Pneumatic Quad Trimmer slices away the excess veneer used to cover the edges of plywood shelves and cabinets. $20; fastcap.com

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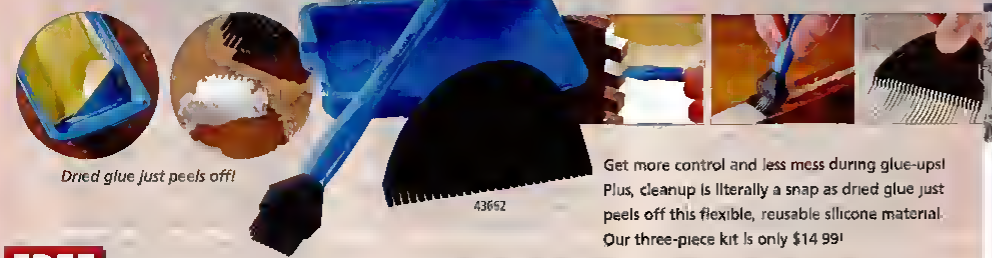

Dried glue just peels off!

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Cover: *For information, see "Inspiring Spruce-ups on a Shoestring," page 102.*

Checklist *(p. 14) Thanks to* Ginny Black, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; www.pca.state.mn.us; Dr. Jerome Rovner, American Arachnological Society; www.americanarachnology.org; Daron Tandberg, White Glove Cleaning Services, Yakima, WA; white-glove-cleaning.com; Ashley Eldridge, Chimney Safety Institute of America, Plainfield, IN; csia.org; Sharon Lilly, International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign, IL; isa-arbor.com

Home Solutions *(pp. 19–26)* **The dirt on steam cleaning: Steam cleaner:** MS30, Haan, haanusa.com

Before + After Kitchen: A lot lighter and totally open *(pp. 31–34)* **Wall paint:** Netsuke (SW 6134), Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com **Dishwasher, range, and microwave:** KitchenAid, kitchenaid.com **Refrigerator:** Frigidaire Professional, frigidaire.com **Cabinet hardware:** Lowe's, lowes.com **Fireplace hearth:** Camaro slate, Camaro Slate Products, Fair Haven, VT, camaroslate.com.

Before + After Bath: Still narrow, but brighter and airier *(pp. 39–40)* **Vanity countertop and quartz bench:** Atlantic Custom Granite and Marble, Dallastown, PA; atlanticcustomgranite.com **Tile:** Bright Ice White Ceramic (subway tile) and Satinglo Hex White/Black Ceramic (floor tile), both by American Olean, lowes.com **Sink faucets:** Opulence Centerset, Delta, delta.com.

Shopping: Elegant cabinet knobs that only look expensive *(pp. 55–58)* **Silvery filigree:** P15790C-MNC, Liberty Hardware, homedepot.com **Swirling leaf:** 2122D2, Belwith Keeler, vandykes.com **Radiating rings:** D2039-32SN, Allen + Roth, lowes.com **Copper boxes:** BE 7117 IRC-C, Berenson Hardware, cabinetparts.com **Hammered dome:** HAF-59160, Häfele, myknobs.com **Classic melon:** 4458.050, Baldwin Hardware, graciousHome.com **Vintage floral:** 20847B, Van Dyke's Restorers, vandykes.com **Beaded and cupped:** 1640, CKF Brand, ccoiknobsandpulls.com **Ribbon and reed:** 8256.IVB.P, Berenson Hardware, berensonhardware.com **Bordered weave:** P7513.VP, Allen + Roth, lowes.com

Modern fluting: 30070, Atlas Homewares, atlashomewares.com **Nature-inspired curves:** P2407#W.SI.C, Brainerd, lowes.com **Crisp hexagonal:** R.0BEM.86120.US15, House of Antique Hardware, hoah.biz **Bronze beading:** 4460.1, Wellington Hardware, cooiknobsandpulls.com **Textured clover:** D2077.31.5ABL5, Allen + Roth, lowes.com **Twining vine:** CP3041, Stone Mill Hardware, atgstores.com **Retro sunburst:** PBF810Y-BSP-CP, Betsy Fields Design, lowes.com **Sheaves of wheat:** Elements 118, Palmero Hardware Resources, knobsandhardware.com

Get This Look for Less: Colorful vintage kitchen *(pp. 60–61)* **Architect:** Sandra Vitzthum, Montpelier, VT; sandravitzthum.com **Accent table:** Dillon Foyer Table, Cost Plus World Market; worldmarket.com **Wallpaper:** Giacomo CM2376 and Open Trellis AP7482 (flat), York Wallcoverings, yorkwall.com Key Largo in Yellow T616B (rolled), Thibaut; thibautdesign.com **Pendant:** Meritage by Condor Lighting; lumens.com **Pitcher:** Stoneware 2-quart in black, Le Creuset; lecreuset.com **Bowl:** Sausalito Medium Serve Bowl in Amber, Pottery Barn; potterybarn.com **Sink legs:** Server Island Post in soft maple, Osborne Wood Products; osbornewood.com **Paint color:** 180 Beverly Hills, Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com **Teapot:** 2-quart porcelain in red, BonJour; potsandpans.com **Wood trim:** EverTrue ¾"H×3¾"W×8'L Stain Grade Pine Crown, Lowe's; lowes.com **Brackets:** Real Organized 7-36-inch Pine Shelf Bracket; lowes.com **Chair:** Windsor Black Finish 37½-inch High Spindle Back Lamps Plus; lampsplus.com **Dining table:** Ronan Pedestal Extension Table, Pier 1 Imports; pier1.com

Photoshop Redo: Craftsman makeover for a no-frills ranch *(p. 63)* **Architect:** Donovan Davis Danze & Davis Architects, Austin, TX; 512-343-0714; danze-davis.com **Paint:** Thyme Green 16-t9 (house) and Lambswool 11-30 (trim), Pratt & Lambert; prattandlambert.com **Stone veneer:** Rustic Ledge in Cascade Eldorado Stone; eldoradostone.com **Sconce:** Style 20172, 10½-inch-high Outdoor Wall Light, J. du J. Mission Hills; lampsplus.com **Entry door:** Classic-Craft American Door, Therma-Tru; thermatru.com

TOH TV: In search of the perfect paint colors *(pp. 71–76) Thanks to* Susan Maycock, Cambridge Historical Commission, Cambridge, MA; cambridgema.gov/historic; Mauro's Painting Co., Boston, MA; maurospainting.com; Bonnie Krims Architectural Color Consulting, Concord, MA; bonniekrims.com

Weekend Remodel: How to install a driveway apron *(pp. 79–86)* **Pavers:** Straight Pattern cobbles in Charcoal, Cobble Systems, Orlando, FL; cobblesystems.com **Grout:** EcoSystems Grout LLC, Orlando, FL; ecosystemsgrout.com. *Thanks to* Tal Shuford, president, Cobble Systems and EcoSystems Grout

Inspiring Spruce-ups on a Shoestring *(pp. 102–109)* **Reader bloggers:** Jessica Bruno, Four Generations One Roof; fourgenerationsoneroof.com; Katherine and Conan Fugit, Keep Smiling; keepsmilinghome.blogspot.com; Nikki Grendy, Grand Design Co.; granddesignco.blogspot.com

Cottage Comeback *(pp. 110–115)* **Homeowner and blogger:** Kim Kelly, BellaRustica; bellarustica.blogspot.com **Contractor:** Scott Beveridge, St. Simons Island, GA; beveridgsconstruction.com **Kitchen: Refrigerator, dishwasher, and gas range:** KitchenAid; kitchenaid.com **Faucet:** Cifial; cifialusa.com **Pulley light:** Restoration Hardware; restorationhardware.com **Office: Wood chandelier:** Bella Rustica Market; bellarustica.blogspot.com **Rug:** Target; target.com **Bedroom: Throw:** West Elm; westelm.com

Ask This Old House *(pp. 129–137)* **Question of the Month: Storm door:** 3000 Series Easy Install storm door with full view glass, Andersen Windows & Doors; stormdoors.com *Thanks to* Chris Palmerini, Andersen Corp. **TOH Tested.** *Thanks to* David Jewett, Pittsford, NY; davidjewett.com; Mark Chisholm, Aspen Tree Expert Co., Inc., Jackson, NJ; 732-928-5747; aspen-tree.com ■

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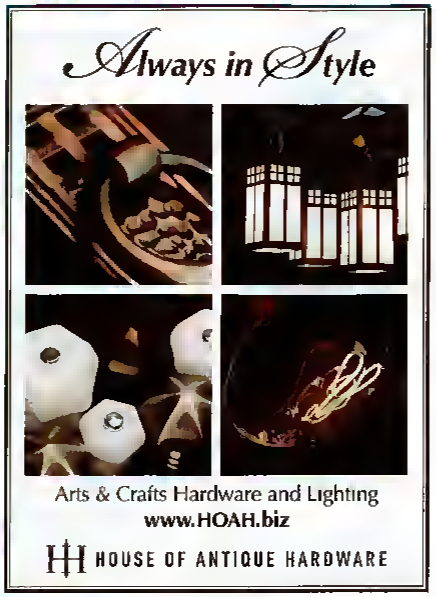
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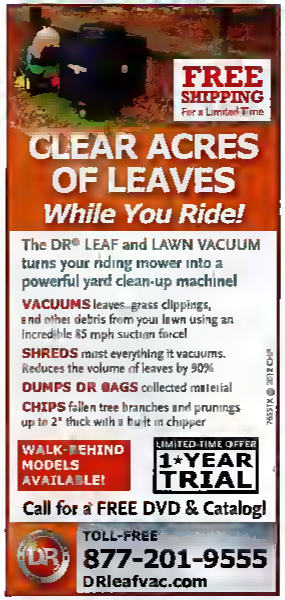
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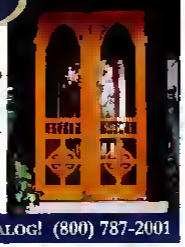

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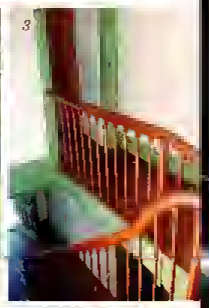


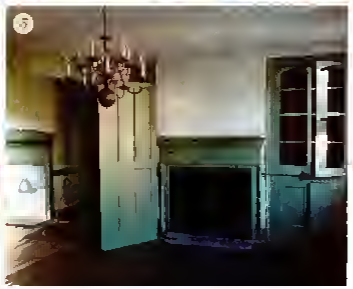
1. The Federal-style clapboard house was built in 1814. The owner doubled its size with a brick addition (on the right) in 1846. 2. A brick smokehouse remains out back. 3. The main staircase retains its hand-turned balustrade. 4. A back staircase runs from the first floor to the attic. 5. Two first-floor parlors can be divided with the original folding doors.

Got a house? If you know of an old [illegible] to savethisoldhouse@timeinc.com or This Old House, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020.

The history: It seems crazy that a sturdy, nearly 200-year-old house built by a celebrated veteran of the War of 1812 who became an influential state senator could almost be demolished. But that's precisely what happened a few years back when the Borough of West Newton couldn't find a buyer for the house that John C. Plumer built for himself and his new bride, Elizabeth, on the banks of the Youghiogheny River in 1814. Thankfully, a local nonprofit snatched up the 2,000-square-foot house, giving the place a second chance. Now the group is hoping a knight in shining tool belt will turn it into a home, a business, or both.

Why save it? The four-bedroom, one-bath house boasts Federal-style millwork, wide-plank flooring, exposed brick walls, built-ins, and mantels. Located downtown, it's zoned for commercial and residential [illegible] Register of Historic Places.

What it needs: Though the house sat vacant for the past three years, the structure is in pretty good shape. The roof, replaced in the 1980s, is sound; the plumbing and electrical systems work, but the furnace needs updating. Easements require owners to seek approval for exterior alterations. West Newton is a quaint town 25 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, with a newly revitalized Main Street. It's just waiting for someone to come and restore one of its oldest and most treasured houses. —KEITH PANDOLFI



PHOTOS: PATRICK SHATTUCK

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